Routes to tour in Germany

The Swabian Alb Route

German roads will get you there. South of Stuttgart the Swabian Alb runs north-east from the Black Forest. It is a range of hills full of fossilised reminders of prehistory. It has a blustery but healthy climate, so have good walking shoes with you and scale a few heights as you try out some of the 6,250 miles of marked paths. Dense forests, caves full of stalactites and stalagmites, ruined castles and rocks that invite you to clamber will ensure variety.

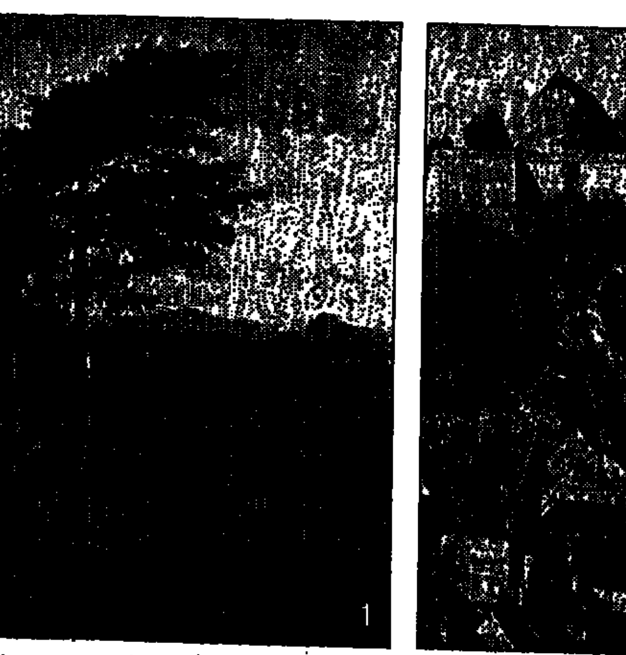
You will also see what you can't see from a car: rare flowers and plants. The route runs over 125 miles through health resorts and nature reserves, passing Baroque churches, late Gothic and Rococo architecture and Hohenzollern Castle, home of the German imperial family.

Visit Germany and let the Swabian Alb Route be your guide.



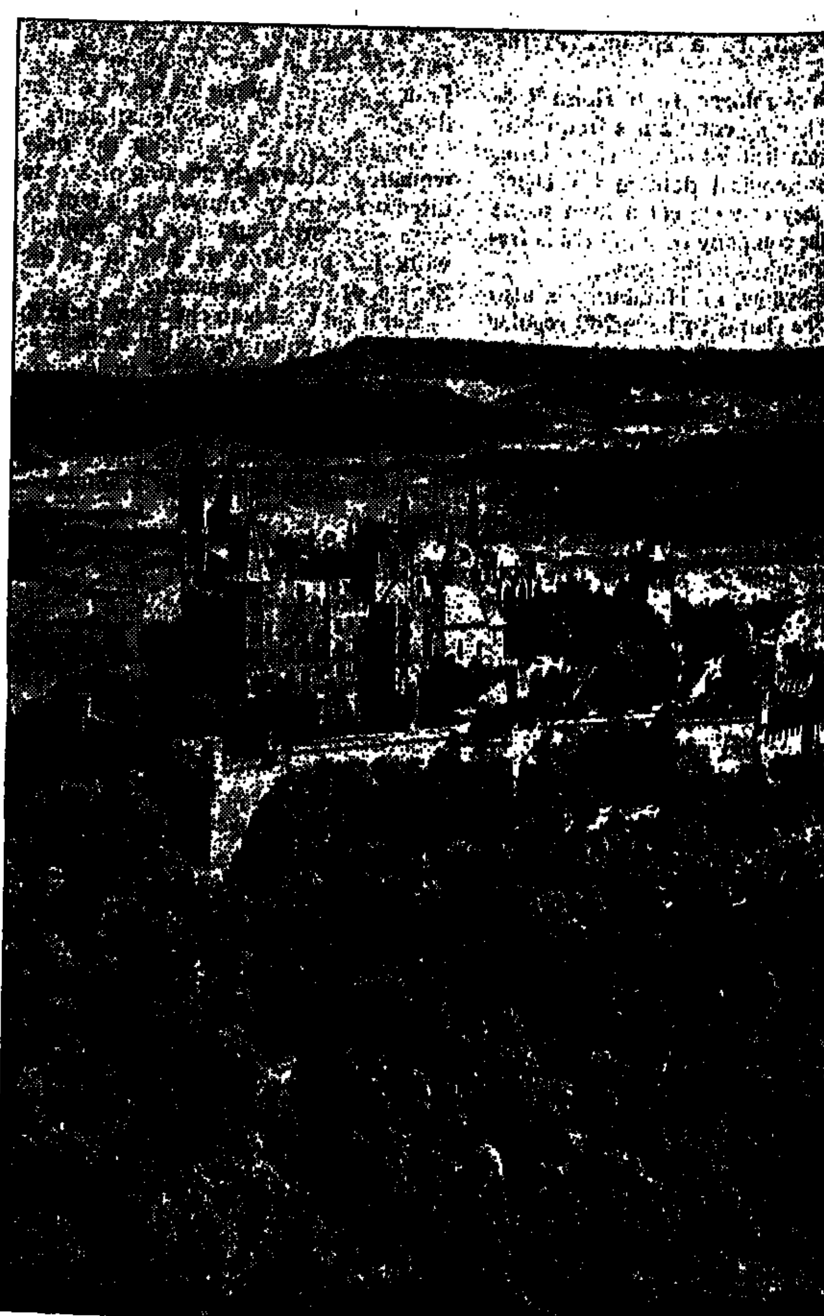
1 View of the Hegau region, near Tuttlingen
2 Heidenheim
3 Nördlingen
4 Urach
5 Hohenzollern Castle











The German Tribune

Hamburg, 12 September 1982
Twenty-first Year - No. 1051 - By air

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A decisive Washington acts on two fronts

The US government has made two trailblazing decisions in a week, one on the Siberian gas pipeline, the other on the Middle East.

It first resolved to modify sanctions against European companies that have decided to go ahead with deliveries for the Soviet gas pipeline to Western Europe despite President Reagan's embargo.

Then, immediately after the PLO fighters had left Beirut, it announced details of a wide-ranging peace plan for the Middle East.

The two moves have little or nothing to do with each other apart from demonstrating anew America's determination to exercise leadership under President Reagan.

They may also both be said to point a clear direction yet to include opportunities of moderation and reconciliation.

In one instance the US administration registered a protest with the Europeans while making it clear that it did not intend to deprive its allies of all freedom of movement.

In the other it has pencilled out for the Palestinians, who were beaten with the aid of US armour, a pathway to peace.

It goes without saying that the Middle East peace bid is of overriding importance in comparison with the toning-down of punitive measures against European companies.

The only real parallel lies in the mixture of strength and the desire for reconciliation.

It is a major diplomatic success for President Reagan's proposals to have fallen on fertile ground in parts of the Arab world. In Jordan, for instance, they have been considered a step in the right direction.

The absence of the Soviet Union from the fighting in Lebanon has presented the United States with a double opportunity.

While helping to promote peace in the region it can peacefully establish an influence in the Middle East that would have seemed absolutely absurd 10 or 12 years ago.

After the evacuation of Beirut by the PLO this is what the political landscape looks like. A kind of peace reigns between Israel and Egypt and a similar state of affairs could be feasible between Israel and Lebanon.

That is, it might be if conditions in Lebanon itself were to be consolidated and the Israelis were to withdraw their troops.

Then Beirut would be the first Arab capital since Cairo in line for some kind of peace settlement with Israel, leaving Jordan as a third neighbour to convince of the benefits to be derived from a settlement.

King Hussein of Jordan was long felt to be the party most likely to come to terms with Israel once another Arab country took the first step.

On the basis of the Reagan proposals Israel might now come to an arrangement with its neighbours that ensured survival in peace once and for all.

Syria alone would seem to be the exception to the rule, although it is arguably dragging its feet, not offering genuine resistance.

That still leaves the main bone of contention: the future role of the Palestinians. Yet self-government for the West Bank and the Gaza strip ought to be tolerable for Israel.

It certainly should be if Jordan were to be offered and to exercise a supervisory function, thereby ensuring that a Palestinians state did not emerge with its sole aim of waging yet another war of destruction on Israel.

The Israeli government's prompt rejection of the Reagan plan need not have been Mr Begin's last word on the subject.

Yet there have been enough past instances of the Israeli Premier reacting stubbornly even when everyone felt his obduracy was harmful to Israel.

The real debate will not be conducted in public. We can be sure that Israel in particular has already begun to consider the details.

President Reagan did not, after all, submit a complete and finished treaty; he merely listed headings, as it were, and it will take long and arduous negotiations to breathe life into them.

It is doubtful whether Israel is fully convinced that its first reaction is right and the Reagan plan runs counter to the Camp David agreement.

The spirit of Camp David certainly permits interpretations and ramifications in line with the US proposals, but it will be months or years before decisions are reached.

The restrainedly positive response in some Arab quarters fuels hopes.

It would not, sad to say, be the first time the dust of rubble and the smoke of bombs and grenades had had to cloud the sky before a silver lining held forth the promise of a new dawn.

Gottfried Capell

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 4 September 1982)



Archbishop Glemp pays a visit

The Primate of Poland, Archbishop Glemp (left) is greeted by Cardinal Höffner, head of the German Bishops Conference, in Cologne. They attended the German Catholic conference in Düsseldorf where Archbishop Glemp was welcomed by a demonstration of support by 30,000. (Photo: dpa)

Germany and Denmark clash over cod fishing rights

Germany and Denmark are in dispute over cod fishing rights off the west coast of Greenland.

German fishermen have been allocated a 2,000-ton quota of cod in the fishing grounds by the EEC. Licences have been issued by Bonn.

But Denmark has threatened to seize German trawlers in the area, although it is in EEC waters.

(Greenland has voted to leave the EEC, although it is a partly autonomous region of Denmark).

Bonn Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl has for years fought a losing battle to ensure the survival of the German high seas fishing industry.

German fishermen insist on their right to fish out the quota by September 20, when a fresh round of negotiations is due to begin.

Denmark wants the issue settled as part of the overall EEC fishing policy.

German fishermen are reluctant to use the licences issued by Bonn. They are heading for Greenland but unwilling to move into the fishing grounds.

They are demanding protection from Bonn if Denmark uses force, and they want financial protection if the Danes confiscate ships and catches and impose fines.

Herr Ertl doubts whether the Danes will resort to illegal moves that are in breach of EEC resolutions. Where, he asks, would we be if every country decided to go it alone against Common Market regulations that didn't suit it?

Bonn, he says, is not so concerned about the 2,000 ton quota as about the principle. The quota is merely part of a 10,000-ton catch allocated to German, French and British trawlers.

But the Danes and Greenlanders take a different view. They have decided to reserve all catches around Greenland for the Greenlanders, and Greenland has voted to retain ties with Denmark but to leave the Common Market.

So Copenhagen voted against the EEC recommendations and former Premier Anker Jörgensen said the German moves were illegal.

The clash is now under consideration by the Bonn Cabinet, which has decided to send a high-ranking envoy, possibly Herr Wischnewski, Minister of State at the Chancellor's Office, to Copenhagen with a note.

But Bonn is not optimistic, and even the visit to Bonn by Greenland Premier Motzfeld, who was invited to visit the German capital by Chancellor Schmidt, may fall through.

They can be extremely stubborn way up north about fish, says the Bonn Agriculture Ministry resignedly.

But Bonn thinks that to go into a cod war for 2,00 tons of fish would be out of all proportion.

Dieter von König

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 September 1982)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ THE EEC

In search of another formula for admitting new members



Since the Brussels EEC summit late in June, it has been clearer than ever that Spain and Portugal will not be able to join the Common Market as it stands.

But there are serious political reasons why it would be wrong to fob the two countries off with hopes of accession in some dim and distant future.

It is, in any case, a miracle that Madrid has still not withdrawn the membership bid it launched in 1977, given Spain's proverbial pride.

In the New Year, President Mitterrand, of France, emphatically endorsed Portugal's membership bid in Lisbon, while on a state visit to Madrid in June he could hardly have been blunter in his attempt to persuade the Spaniards they stood no hope of joining.

When this failed he called at the Brussels summit for a fresh report by the European Commission on the economic problems associated with Spain's membership bid.

Rome, Bonn and the EEC Commission in Brussels are worried too much political china is being smashed and have repeatedly encouraged hopes in both Spain and Portugal that membership, already postponed to 1984, will at *least be for the asking in time for this latest deadline.*

This summer, in keeping with long-standing tradition, farmers in the south of France have resumed attacks on shipments of Spanish farm produce, with the result that M. Mitterrand could not yield ground even if he wanted.

Giovanni Giolitti, Italy's Socialist EEC Commissioner, thus took up at a July Commission conference old ideas dating back to Willy Brandt, the 1976 Tindemans Report and Raymond Barre's 1979 proposals.

Herr Brandt envisaged the EEC as a convoy travelling at different speeds. M. Tindemans referred to Europe à la carte. The idea was that not all EEC members would be required to abide by all the rules.

Herr Brandt and M. Tindemans initially envisaged a number of member-countries forging ahead with plans for closer integration. Signor Giolitti now suggests Spain and Portugal could become full members of the European Community yet be virtually excluded from the common agricultural market for years to come.

They would also be excused full compliance with the industrial competition provisions of the Treaty of Rome.

Classic examples of Europe à la carte are felt to be the European Monetary System and the Benelux customs union.

In the EMS all EEC member-countries are technically represented at consultations, which are held by the EEC Council of Ministers and in EEC committees.

But Britain and Greece ae not members of the system proper, while Italy enjoys a wider exchange-rate bandwidth for the lira than other member-countries.

Within Benelux tax procedures are simplified for traffic in goods between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, and there are no customs checks of individuals at their common borders.

Residence permits and visas for foreign nationals are issued in accordance with jointly agreed principles.

In theory Germany could join Benelux on both these points, making this greater degree of integration part of the EEC system with which, as yet, it has *nothing directly to do.*

But Bonn, apart from the EMS, is still strictly opposed to the idea launched by former Bonn Chancellor Willy Brandt, among others.

Europe à la carte might be desirable as a means of forging ahead with integration but not as a means of stalling on it, the German government feels.

If Spain and Portugal were to become full members of the EEC without achieving full economic integration after a limited transitional period the Common Market might gradually disintegrate.

The transitional period granted Britain, Denmark and Ireland in 1973 was five years. For Greece a transitional period of seven years was agreed, largely because Bonn was worried about an influx of Greek workers.

Basically Bonn is not in favour of long transitional periods, however, and certainly not unlimited ones. Only a fully integrated market ensures German industry better sales prospects.

Too long transitional arrangements *could lead in Greece, in Britain and even in Italy and Denmark to demands* to turn back the clock of economic integration and tough industrial competition.

Bonn is not alone in fearing this might be the case. At the EEC Commission conference Signor Giolitti's suggestion initially encountered more doubts than approval.

Yet the German government has long realised that Spanish integration in the common agricultural market would increase the cost to the EEC budget to an extent existing Common Market countries could not possibly afford.

Bonn Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl submitted to the German Cabinet in 1979 a memorandum outlining, just in case, what he calls the grim truth.

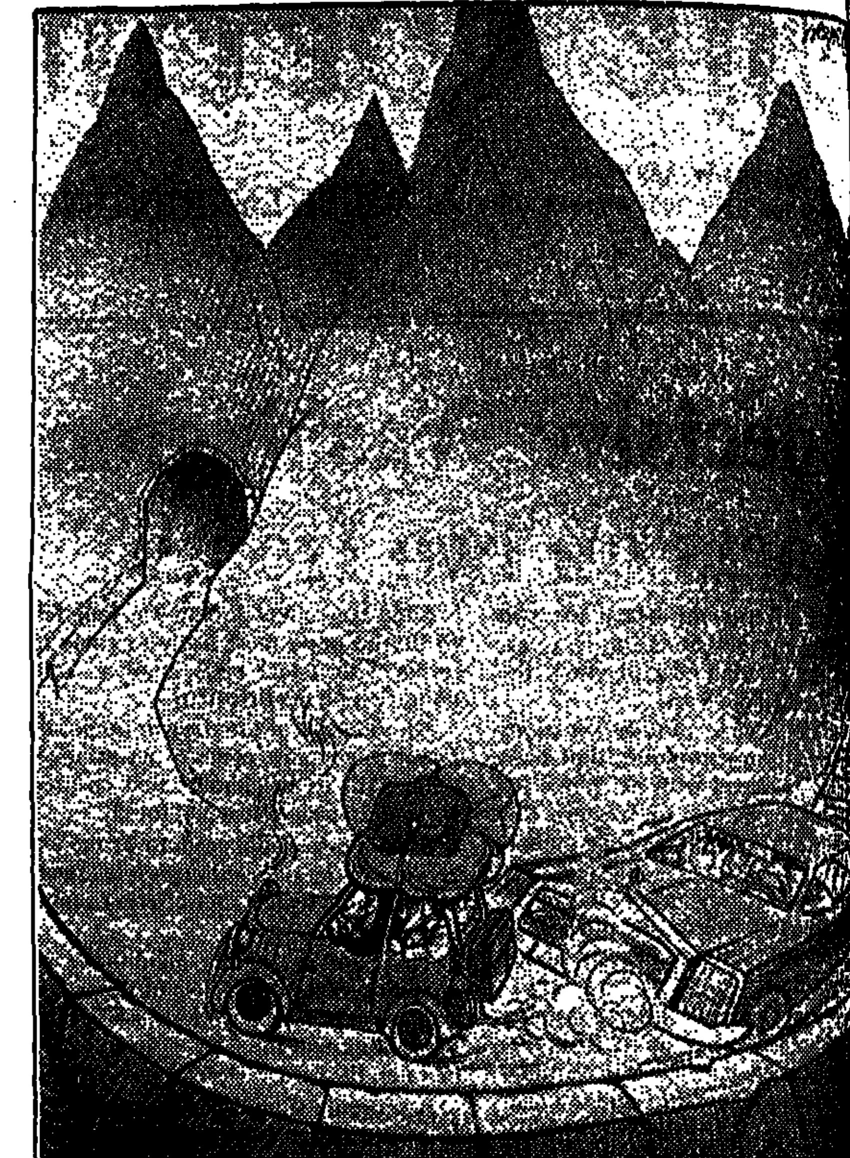
But the Spaniards cannot be expected to whistle for equal rights in the common agricultural market merely to ease the pressure on French farmers and the Bonn budget, and they certainly cannot be expected to do so at the same time as exposing Spanish industry to the tender mercies of unlimited EEC competition.

And in other EEC countries the steel, motor and textile industries and their trade unions are not overjoyed at the prospect of low-wage competition from Spain and Portugal.

As for the EEC's finances, Britain's EEC Commissioner Christopher Tugendhat has submitted proposals aimed at eliminating the net burden of financing the EEC on Germany and Britain only, while smoothing the path for Spanish and Portuguese membership.

In various combinations Mr Tugendhat has proposed direct EEC levies on energy imports, agricultural produce and so on.

Some of his ideas could be of interest to Bonn because they are aimed at making Benelux and Denmark, rich EEC countries, net payers to rather than net beneficiaries of the Common Market.



'I couldn't care less if he is a full member of the EEC — he's in my way!' (Cartoon: Hanel/EG-Ma

On the other hand his proposals would eliminate the financial check on the EEC budget imposed by the rule that the EEC is not entitled to more than one per cent of value-added tax revenue.

This check is a means by which Chancellor Schmidt has so far sought to force EEC agricultural policymakers to be less spendthrift.

Viewed from Brussels the prospects for a new-look European Community seem largely to depend on Bonn, whose word as the EEC's leading industrial power carries more weight than German public opinion generally realises.

This leading role and the authority enjoyed by Herr Schmidt in the Ten should force Bonn at some stage in the months ahead to nail its colours to the mast.

Herr Genscher at the Bonn Foreign Office has always been strongly in favour of EEC membership for Spain and Portugal, but the Foreign Office has failed to allay the economic and political fears of both the Bonn government as a whole and its partners in the Common Market.

Because of the interests of member-countries full membership for Madrid and Lisbon could only be achieved if Bonn were to agree to Europe à la carte.This would inevitably mean setbacks to integration in the form of exceptional arrangements for member-countries that were in a particularly weak position economically or industrially.

To offset the damage Bonn would need to devise an offensive strategy aimed at more than minor improvements as envisaged in the Genscher-Colombo Plan, such as majority decisions in the Council of Ministers, more rights for the European Assembly and foreign policy cooperation.

It would need to be a strategy of ge-nuine integration with suitable pa in taxation, monetary affairs, (railways and airlines), aliens po (abolition of border checks), and even consular represent abroad.

On some points it could be achi with the Benelux countries, on oth with France.

In security and defence policy ba might arguably be derived, despite N dogma and bilateral cooperation w France, from an approach aimed soo or later in the same direction as WEU.

Financial constraints and the possi lity of a change in defence policy Washington after the Reagan era w appear to make some such plans sable, to say the lease.

If Bonn decides in favour of Common Market as it is, Spain Portugal will be left out in the cold, the longer the recession lasts the difficult it will be to maintain the ex ing level of integration. *Erich Haus*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 August

The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

Conservatives wait for the call in Bonn, but the script is far from written

The SPD/FDP coalition is nearing the end. Unless the signs from ... are wrong, the end could come ...night and perhaps before the Hesse ...te election on September 26.

The Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, has ...ectly divined that the chairman of ... FDP, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, will ...nt to make the change in Bonn if the ...d goes against the SPD.

(The FDP has already decided to ...ow in its lot with the CDU if the lat... beats the governing SPD in Hesse)

Herr Schmidt is ready if the end does ...e suddenly — it does not matter if it ...before or after the election. He would ... dream of thowing in the towel. He ...ould like to continue with a minority ...binet without the FDP ministers.

The chairman of the CDU, Helmut ...hl, judges from Herr Genscher's atti...e that the Opposition's time has ...e. He is prepared to try and arrange ...coalition with the FDP as soon as ...sible with no strings attached.

But the CSU's Franz Josef Strauss ...esn't want any part of it. He says the ...P is no longer needed. The conserva...es can do without it.

The question now is: how will the ...ift take place? No Bonn government ...s been put out of power as part of ...edictable set piece movements.

Psychology and the irrational have ...ways had a bearing, making for the ...predictable.

But there are limits. Theoretically, ...ere are five possibilities.

1. On the spot change by toppling ...e chancellor through a constructive ...vote of no confidence.

2. Helmut Schmidt agreeing to new ...ections.

3. An SPD minority cabinet for a ...ited period with Schmidt at the head ...until he is brought down over a fiscal ...other specific issue.

4. A grand coalition (a nightmare of ...ides to many).

5. SPD/FDP muddling through until ...84.

What is likely?

Constructive vote of no confidence: ...ticle 67 of the Constitution makes the ...d to such a vote full of uncertainties ... FDP and CDU. The problem is that ...hl as a candidate for the chancellor...ip would not be certain of getting all ...DP votes. This would be no sound ... beginning for him — and even less ...for Genscher.

The CDU has once before in its post-... history vainly tried to bring about a ...nge in this way: On 27 April 1972 it ...d to heave Willy Brandt out of the ...ddle and put Rainer Barzel in his ...ce with the help of a few renegade ...eral MPs.

The conservatives even now, ten ...s later, still remember their defeat. ...l would not be too worried about ...tory repeating itself if the FDP were ...pt out of the coalition first. But even ... he would have every reason to ...ry about his own party giving him ...unanimous backing.

New elections: Genscher fears them ...re than anything else. If the nation ... to the polls again the very survival of ...party would be at stake.

Kohl's favourite scenario: first the ...DP ministers opt out of the cabinet; ...en there is a constructive vote of no confidence, with Kohl being elected Chancellor. Only then are elections held. So, regardless whether the FDP is eliminated in the elections or not, Kohl would become chancellor before the end of this year.

Other conservatives, including Herr Strauss, also favour new elections though they would be happy with any change of power, no matter how. In any event, they would prefer to govern alone.

Strauss has therefore already said that he regards the FDP finished in historic terms. He wants to write his own script for the change.

Other conservatives would prefer a change without Kohl, But this would only be possible if a decision on the CDU/CSU chancellorship candidate were made in 1983. This group favours the Schleswig-Holstein Prime Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg as Chancellor.

If the FDP only chafes against the bit (as Count Lambsdorff is doing) without risking toppling the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt could himself decide on new elections by asking for a vote of confidence.

If he lost, he could ask the president to dissolve the Bundestag within 21 days.

The Chancellor and his party are now united as they have not been in a long time on making sure the FDP does not get off scot-free if the government goes.

This is why Schmidt has made a point of ensuring that he has one option: he might very soon decide to spell out to the nation what the main points of Social Democratic government policy are.

The more precise his presentation the greater the challenge to the FDP to put its cards on the table and clearly state whether it still backs the Chancellor or not.

Another important point is that the alliance between the SPD and the trade unions must not be harmed still further in the final phase of the social/liberal era.

Schmidt is determined that, even if it were in the opposition, the SPD must not fall on the issue he falls on. He would rather go under in new elections with the flag still flying.

Minority government: though Schmidt is not looking for such a solution, he seems to be able to envisage it.

In purely constitutional terms, the chancellor could continue governing without restraint once the FDP ministers have left his cabinet.

And even if in the autumn the FDP joined the CDU in turning down the 1983 budget, this would not automatically trigger the constitutional mechanisms that would lead to new elections.

But things look quite different in political terms. Sooner or later, Schmidt would have to ask for a vote of confidence under Article 68 and work towards a dissolution of the Bundestag and new elections. He would then be in a position to set the date for new elections and give the reasons for them along with the issues at stake.

Grand coalition: , the experience made between 1966 and 1969 should actually rule this out. True, Schmidt has occasionally flirted with the idea because a grand coalition would make it easier to realise difficult decisions in times of economic troubles and resist pressure from various groups. But there would be little common ground otherwise.

The SPD and the trade unions would be at loggerheads and perhaps even split. The CDU also thinks little of a grand coalition.

One consequence can be taken for granted: as in 1966—69, when the grand coalition drove young people to the extra-parliamentary opposition in droves, the same coalition now would bolster the Greens — and there is telling to what point.

Muddling through: this is something the parties could not weather for any length of time without coming to harm — not to mention the damage to the political system.

More than just the political basis of the coalition has crumbled in the last few months. What has crumbled is also the solidarity of the cabinet, the psychological cement that kept the parties and parliamentary groups together and, finally, the joint expectations and hopes for the future.

Under these conditions, the coalition could next year neither decide on the stationing of missiles in this country nor on the future of the economy, the budget and the welfare state as a whole. In fact, it could make no decisions of any importance at all.

So what is to happen? Little has been said about what is actually at stake in all the discussions about a turning point and a change of power.

What shape would the "genuinely new" policy of Helmut Kohl assume? So far, CDU/CSU has come up with no clear answer to the major national issues under dispute. In some instances the answers have been diffuse or contradictory.

The FDP has "instrumentalised" the issues at stake to suit its own ends, i. e. a change of coalition partners. As a result, it has lost much credibility with both SPD and CDU.

The SPD is only just at the beginning of a rethinking process. It is not yet entirely clear which direction it will take.

There must be an end to the paralysis. But the question is how to bring it about.

Up to now, it has seemed as if Genscher and Lambsdorff wanted to go it alone in deciding when the final blow is to come. But Genscher continues to hesitate. If he wants to escape the odium of having arbitrarily toppled Schmidt, one of the most popular Chancellors, post-war, he has no choice but to leave the decision to the chronology of events, the dispute over specific issues and the stresses to which the Social Democrats are prepared to expose themselves. This is the card Genscher intends to play.

As he sees it, the Hesse electorate will demonstrate its loss of faith in the SPD by dealing the Social Democrats a landslide defeat.

If the FDP survives in Hesse, Genscher would have proof that his theory of the new majority was correct.

Meanwhile, he collects arguments until the Bavarian election on 10 October. He is thus strengthening his arsenal of arguments against the SPD: on the one side the Social Democrats, who want more state and more debt and on the other side the liberals, who stand for more freedom, performance and thriftiness.

The federal budget could provide the reason (or the pretext) for a break.

Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff is to present new economic data by mid-October. If Schmidt and the SPD bide their time until then — which is not certain — Genscher and his ministers could withdraw from the cabinet and get their party's blessings for the shift at the FDP national congress in early November.

Though Schmidt does not have full control over this process, he is nevertheless not condemned to passiveness.

For the time being, at any rate, he intends to go on governing for a number of reasons.

He does not regard his policy as having failed and he can see no attractive alternative, discounting the turning point rhetoric.

If he resigns, there would be no telling who would succeed him. Would it be Kohl in name and Strauss in fact?

The question, however, is: now long will Schmidt be able to resist a change of power out of a sense of duty?

New elections must come sooner or later, and both Social Democrats and conservatives are preparing for this.

New elections would have the advantage of putting an end to the process of deterioration.

And, who knows? The campaign might at last show what policies are actually in store for the 1980s.

Günter Hofmann

(Die Zeit, 3 September 1982)

Opposition begins to make its Treasury calculations

The conservatives find themselves in a tricky position in the conflict over the Federal Budget. The issue is closely linked with a change of coalition partner by the FDP.

The conservative role as Opposition gives it the right to demand accurate information on economic data from the government; and it has a right to make approval in parliament dependent on strict criteria.

However, the CDU and CSU regard themselves as the government parties of tomorrow. So they cannot reject anything that is unpopular simply to avoid upsetting people.

Though there is room for discussion on details within the party and outside, a few fundamentals, a fiscal *leitbild* so to speak, should be made discernible.

This could include firm statements on the limits of state debt and the burdens that can be imposed on the business community.

The conservatives should also make it clear whether they want to reduce social security benefits or increase the contributions.

In a large party like the CDU/CSU, it is only natural that views on these issues vary.

There are also institutional limits to

Continued on page 6

■ DEFENCE

Chemical weapons: everyone has stocks, despite treaty

Frankfurter Rundschau

Chemical warfare has been internationally banned for 57 years and most governments would be happy to get rid of stockpiles for good.

But hundreds of thousands of tons of chemical weapons still exist, and poison gas for military use is making headline news again in Germany.

Magazines and TV in the Federal Republic have taken the lid off the open secret that enormous amounts of chemical weapons are stockpiled in both German states.

In the United States the government is to resume manufacture of chemical weapons after a 10-year break.

The only good news is that serious talks on a chemical weapons ban have finally begun at the UN disarmament conference in Geneva.

An estimated 100,000 First World War soldiers were killed by mustard gas, and in 1925, when these agonising mass deaths were still a recent memory, the League of Nations agreed to ban chemical warfare.

But the Geneva protocol did not rule out the manufacture and storage of poison gas, and since there was no international inspection of manufacturing facilities stockpiling seemed the only sure deterrent.

Countries hit by poison gas attacks are entitled to reply in kind, and even Hitler preferred not to run the risk, although the Wehrmacht had significant stockpiles of nerve gas developed during the Second World War.

At the end of 1944 Germany was in a position to manufacture 11,000 tons a month.

By the terms of the 1954 Paris treaties the Federal Republic of Germany voluntarily untertook not to manufacture nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

That gained it admission to the Western European Union, whose members were still distrustful of Germany. But US troops brought poison gas back into the country.

US forces in Europe have half a million tons of ammunition stockpiled, including 10,000 tons of chemical weapons stockpiled in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Soviet forces stationed in the German Democratic Republic are equipped for chemical warfare too.

On more than one occasion East German chemical companies such as Arzneimittelwerk Dresden and VEB Fahlberg-Liste have been accused of manufacturing chemical weapons for the Soviet Union.

But a British expert, Perry Robinson, says such dangerous substances are unlikely to be manufactured in densely populated areas such as Saxony in the GDR.

Experts reckon the United States must have about 30,000 tons of nerve gas stockpiled, with gas-filled ammunition, such as bombs, spray drums, shells and land mines, weighing roughly 200,000 tons.

US reserves of highly-toxic substances should be enough to make up a further 200,000 tons of ammunition.

The Soviet Union is estimated to have between 350,000 and 700,000 tons of chemical weapons stockpiled, although many experts feel these figures are exaggerated.

Official Warsaw Pact figures are not available. The last official Soviet mention of chemical weapons was in 1938.

But even East European diplomats feel the Soviet Union might well have more chemical weapons stockpiled than the US and thus enjoy superiority in quantity, if not in quality.

Their view is that, as in other military sectors, the Russians try to offset in quantity what they lack in advanced technology.

The Red Army, they say, has neglected to develop chemical warfare techniques. Western experts disagree, saying both the Russians and the Americans are equipped with VX, the most effective nerve gas known to man, which happens to have been discovered by the British.

The Soviet chemical warfare units, an army corps, are said to have a current strength of 80,000 men and a full establishment of 130,000 men.

Organic phosphorus compounds form the basis of nerve gas. They are classified by letters of the alphabet, the most widespread being GB and VX.

In some cases they are colourless and odourless. They destroy the human nervous system and lead to death in minutes or hours.

Fatal doses are said to be a milligram of GB or 0.4 milligrams of VX.

The military value of chemical weapons is controversial. Neither Nato nor the Warsaw Pact includes chemical warfare in official strategy. It is, after all, internationally proscribed.

‘Colourless, odourless . . . they destroy the human nervous system and kill in minutes’

East Bloc spokesmen have been known to suggest that the Americans, as part of their flexible response strategy, envisage the use of poison gas as a scale in escalation midway between conventional and nuclear weapons.

The United States is said to favour this option as a means of delaying escalation to the stage at which both sides must run the risk of mutual destruction by making a pre-emptive nuclear strike.

Chemical weapons are generally viewed as tactical weapons. They could be used, for instance, to drive a corridor into enemy lines through which one's own troops, suitably masked, could pass.

Experienced disarmament diplomats suspect that negotiations on a renunciation of the manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons gave the brasshats the idea of taking a fresh look at the option. Chemical weapons had previously been regarded as a doubtful left-over from bygone days, but when negotiations began, doubts arose as to the other side's intentions and military men began to discover gaps in their own armoury.

Since 1918 chemical warfare has only been waged on far inferior enemies: by



Dressed for the occasion . . . chemical workers. (Photo:

Mussolini in the 1936 Abyssinian campaign, for example, or by the Egyptians in the Yemen in 1966.

The United States now accuses the Soviet Union and Vietnam of using toxic substances such as yellow rain in Afghanistan and Cambodia.

This is a particularly grave allegation becuse these substances, biologically based, have been banned, including their manufacture and stockpiling, by international agreement since 1972.

The superpowers are not alone in stockpiling chemical weapons. Most countries of some military importance either have them or are able to manufacture them.

They are fairly inexpensive and easy to make. Well-known countries with a chemical warfare capacity include Britain, France and India.

French shock troops are equipped with a mixture of conventional and chemical weapons. In other armies there are special chemical warfare units.

This proliferation seriously hampers the UN disarmament talks begun 10 years ago. Every country with a chemical warfare capacity wants to be sure that any treaty is honoured.

But how can they be sure? A failsafe check seems impossible as long as tens of thousands of companies all over the world manufacture toxins that could be used in chemical warfare.

In the present circumstances one cannot possible imagine an army of inspectors going through the chemical industry and the world's armed forces with a fine-toothed comb.

The debate on a chemical weapons ban regained momentum when the United States decided to resume their manufacture, arguing that the Soviet Union had regained superiority since 1972.

President Reagan plans to use the manufacturing facility in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to produce a new catgory of chemical weapon, the binary systems, for which chemical formulas have long existed.

They consist of two substances, each not unduly poisonous on its own, but a deadly nerve gas when they are combined.

The advantages of binary weapons are that they are easily shipped and can be safely stockpiled. Ammunition need not be made live until just before use.

The US government plans to use binary substances in artillery shells, Lance missiles and Big-Eye bombs. Built-in mix and spray devices would be activated just before they hit their targets.

The US Defence Department has sought several times since 1973 to have the manufacture of binary weapons a- proved, but Congress is still not con- ced of the need.

In mid-August a Senate commi- voted against a proposed budget allo- tion of $54m toward their manufactu- but the last word has not yet been s- on the subject.

The Federal Republic of Germany the country where binary weapo- would surely be stationed has ye- show much enthusiasm about the p- posal.

In 1969 Helmut Schmidt even ca- for the withdrawal of US chemical w- pons from German territory, while W- ly Brandt, who was Foreign Minist- those days, said:

"If the US government were to co- der the withdrawal of chemical w- pons from the Federal Republic desir- ble I would have no objections.

"Any such decision would definit- not be to the detriment of our securi- need hardly say more."

At the Geneva disarmament ta- Bonn has submitted a proposal for v- ification of a ban on chemical weapo-

Inspectors would be given access manufacturing facilities if a party to agreement were to have reasona- grounds for suspecting that chemi- weapons were being manufactu- there.

Random spot checks, based on drawing of lots, would be made at 120 factories around the world whe- organic phosphorus compounds manufactured.

Sweden has proposed checking capacity of a country's armed forces wage chemical warfare.

The Soviet Union has lately agreed systematic international inspection facilities in the USSR, which is felt be a major step forward.

But there are doubts as to the pra- cal scope of the Soviet concession. T- West has submitted a list of 21 quest- to which Soviet ambassador Victor raelian has so far replied evasively.

So a universally satisfactory soluti- of the inspection problem is not yet sight. But there is widespread agr- ment on the chemical substances to covered by a ban.

They must include all super-toxic deadly substances, and experts h- drawn up grades of toxicity.

A ban would not extend to the ma- facture of irritants such as tear gas substances that causes temporary inc- pacitation.

All countries prefer to maintain so- such capacity to maintain law and or- at home.

Pierre Simonitsch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 August 19

THE LAW

The People's Court a dark chapter in legal history

Süddeutsche Zeitung

-orty years ago, in August 1942, Adolf Hitler received a letter from of his staunchly loyal followers.

-he man wrote: "I am proud to be -werable to you, my Führer, the su- -e judge of the German people, for justice meted out by your highest -ical court."

The author of the letter went on to that he would "always try to judge I believe you, my Führer, would -e in any particular case." The letter -ed with: "Heil, my Führer. In loyal- your political soldier, Roland -isler."

It was in this spirit that Roland Freis- the presiding judge of the notorious -ple's Court, and his stooges in the judges' robes dispensed justice.

Of the 16,500 death sentences bet- -n 1933 and 1945 (15,900 of them 1940 onward) about one-third -00) were passed by the People's -urt.

Many of the trials were abbreviated -ck versions of due process of law; -d all of them blatantly disregarded -ights and the dignity of the accus-

The People's Court, along with other -urts scattered throughout the country, -aged in what can only be termed ju- -ial mass murder.

Among those sentenced were mem- of resistance groups, honourable -ens who had had the temerity to cri- -e Hitler's terror regime or opposed war and the "final victory". Others simply retold a political joke.

They were charged with high treason, in some cases they were told just -re their execution that they had worthless creatures anyway.

These former judges and other mem- of the People's and Special Courts -e still not been brought to justice.

Until only three years ago, the post- German judiciary system had no le- capacity to prosecute Hitler's jud-

-n 1968, the Federal Court in Karls- reversed a sentence against Hans- -chim Rehse, a former People's -t assessor. The reason given was -troversial and gave rise to the suspi- that the judges' guild did not want -roceed against one of its own.

The Federal Court argued that there no evidence to prove that Rehse, was alleged to have been personal- -volved in 231 death sentences, had out of base motives — the legal -tion of murder.

Since the court also conceded that -e had believed at the time that he acting in accordance with existing the ruling was interpreted to the that the Federal Court recognised People's Court as a regular court of

The original five-year sentence for -der (the prosecution had demanded imprisonment) was subsequently -nulled. Rehse was acquitted.

This prompted many prosecutors who had begun investigating former Nazi judges to throw in the towel and close their files.

It was not until 1979 that Berlin Justice Senator Gerhard Meyer picked up the hot potato once more. He commissioned Prosecutor Bernhard Jahntz to resume investigations on a centralised basis and to prove that — when Freisler assumed office at the latest — the People's Court ceased to be a regular court and became a pseudo-legal murder machine for the elimination of political opponents.

The equating of the People's Court with an ordinary court whose judges worked on the basis of the laws as they existing at the time came under heavy criticism.

The point that raised the most objection was that the excuse of former Gestapo members who said they had acted under the laws of the time and under orders was rejected by the courts.

But the same excuse offered by Hitler's judges was accepted.

Following three years of investigation, the first two former People's Court jurists have now been questioned: a former judge, now aged over 80, and a more than 70-year-old former prosecutor.

Jahntz and his two colleagues in the Public Prosecutor's Office Department VI, which deals with members of the Nazi era's Special Courts, have so far come up with the names of 565 judges and prosecutors who worked for the People's Court.

Of them, 377 are known to be dead while nothing is known of 97 others. In 35 cases the investigation was dropped for lack of evidence.



The People's Court decides . . . Roland Freisler (right) presiding judge of the court sentences Field Marshal Erwin von Witzleben to death for his involvement in the plot in July 1944 to kill Hitler. (Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

The investigation still in progress involves 56 former judges and prosecutors whose health is such as to enable them to stand trial, says Prosecutor Jahntz.

He hopes to conclude his investigations by the middle of the decade at the latest though is it questionable whether the age and physical condition of the persons concerned will permit them to stand trial by then.

Since there were almost no young jurists appointed to these special Courts and considering that it took 35 years before investigations even started, all the people who could be prosecuted are very old by now. According to Jahntz, the youngest is 73 and the oldest 88.

Even if there were almost none of the 56 Nazi jurists (two years ago it was 71) left by the time an arrest warrant could be issued and charges filed — which Jahntz says he would regret — he is still certain that his work is not in vain.

The perusal of 2,000 "revolting cases and sentences" has made it clear to Jahntz that — contrary to the 1968 Federal Court ruling — the People's Courts' work ran clearly counter to the laws of the time, at the latest from 1942 onward.

As he sees it, is up to today's judiciary system to make it clear that what passed as justice in the Nazi era was an arbitrary instrument used to eliminate political opponents.

Jahntz says that he is personally interested in mastering and overcoming this dark chapter of German judiciary history.

Present Justice Senator Rupert Scholz (CDU), who backs the investigation set in train by his predecessor, stresses that what is at stake here is also the credibility of justice itself.

As to the legitimacy of the People's Courts, Jahntz says that the questioning of the former judge has shed considerable light on this issue.

Like this judge, who has meanwhile been questioned over a period of several days, other Nazi jurists are drawing pensions and suffered no disadvantages after the war.

Many of them became prosecutors and judges, while one rose to the position of presiding judge at a high court.

Many of these people settled in Berlin; and in cases where the past caught up with them, they escaped public censure by seeking the advice of colleagues or by making use of provisions specially drafted for such cases and retiring prematurely.

Many of these terror judges became "honourable" citizens after the war, arguing that they had seen the error of their ways. So why put these people on trial after so many years?

Hamburg prosecutor Helge Grabitz, who has had much experience with Nazi trials, early this year wrote in *Zeitschrift für Rechtspolitik* (a law magazine) that "the accused in today's Nazi trials present the image of the righteous pensioner, the responsible citizen or simply that of a poor, old, sick man.

"Seen in this way, it is difficult to associate the crimes of murder or accessary to murder with these people, who are today over 70."

Comments Volker Kähne of Berlin's Justice Department: "It is a widespread mistake to assume that German criminal law view punishment purely as a means of rehabilitation. The element of expiation still applies."

Volker Skierka

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 August 1982)

Changes sought in legislation on Nazi mementoes, emblems



The law should be changed so that it becomes a crime to manufacture or import Nazi emblems, says a committee. At present, Nazi memorabilia cannot be sold, but they can be imported.

A work group carrying out a study for the Bonn Justice Ministry thinks that the law should be widened. It should make it easier to prosecute right-wing extremists for what are known as "agitation crimes."

It recommends that Section 140 of the criminal code ("Rewarding and Condoning Crimes") be extended to provide for the prosecution of people who, for example publicly deny the murder of Jews in the Third Reich or who generally minimise the severity of genocide.

The proposals have been tabled in the Bundestag in the form of a draft bill.

The Ministry is now considering what to do about right-wing extremism among foreigners in Germany.

The work group, consisting of two lawyers, and two sociologists, opposes stiffer sentences.

For the past few months it has been studying the criminal proceedings against right-wing extremists in the period from September 1978 to August 1982.

During this time 747 sentences were confirmed and 91 are still awaiting appeal; 22 people have been killed by right-wing extremists since 1978.

The study is expected to be completed next summer.

According to the head of the work group, the first impression is that there are considerable (non-political) differences between right- and left-wing extremists.

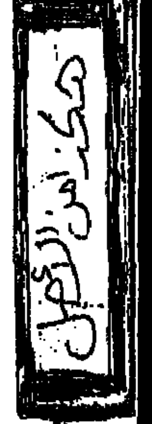
The right-wingers are "closer to the traditional milieu of criminals."

Unlike with left-wing extremists, there are almost no women in neo-Nazi circles. The education standard of neo-Nazis is lower.

The neo-Nazi sympathiser scene is more pronounced than the left. While the left sympathiser scene soon dissolves after arrests, there is no such erosion among the neo-Nazis.

Reinhold Michels

(Rheinische Post, 26 August 1982)



■ THE ECONOMY

Cost of money 'not the only culprit'

SüddeutscheZeitung

Many, including Bonn, put the economic situation down solely to high interest rates. That is the easy way out.

High interest rates and stagnation are good companions, and normally a depressed economy recovers when money becomes cheap.

But many of the rules of the economic game no longer apply, and others are doubtful.

For example, stagnation and inflation should not, by the old yardstick, go together. But they are doing exactly that now in most industrial countries.

The cost structure has become so rigid that, unlike in former years, prices no longer go down in a bid to stimulate buying when there is a shortage of demand.

In the industrial sector, sellers must at least offer discounts, even now. But this has no bearing on the basket of goods that determines the consumer price index.

In other areas, such as food, the law of supply and demand is suspended.

European market regulations have made it possible to maintain high retail prices even in times of record harvests and thus keep the inflation rates up.

And what about wages? Do they go down in times of unemployment? On the contrary. So what is still "normal" today?

Interest rates in this country are too high despite a moderate inflation rate, compared with other industrial nations — although even this moderate rate of inflation is still too high for this country.

Anybody who considers reasonable an interest rate that is three per cent higher than the inflation rate can see only limited scope for further interest rate reductions — especially now that there are fewer barriers to foreign trade.

The high current account deficit of the past few years is now almost balanced. As a result, imports and exports of capital now no longer have the same heavy bearing on the balance of payments.

In addition, the interest gap between the United States and Germany — a decisive element in determining the flow of capital — has closed from its formerly six to eight to the present three to four per cent without bringing about a change in the dollar exchange rate.

There also is every likelihood that the American money market will be less strained now that both houses of Congress have passed Reagan's tax increases.

This has enabled the Bundesbank no lower its interest rates as well. On 26 August, Germany's central bank made use of this leeway by reducing the rates at which commercial banks can borrow from it.

All indicators now point to declining interest rates — not only the American interest rate guru Henry Kaufman, who predicts sliding dollar interest rates for the next 12 months.

The German economic doldrums make lower interest rates necessary. The prime beneficiary here would be the construction industry.

But low interest rates are no cure-all. Once interest on capital markets settles at a sensible 7.5 to 8.5 per cent, it will probably turn out that interest rates no longer play the decisive role of former years.

A reduction of interest rates by one or two per cent is not enough to reduce industry's production costs more than just marginally.

A look at some statistics bears this out. In 1980 (when interest rates were already high) interest payments accounted for only 4.5 per cent of the drain on gross earnings. When balanced against interest earnings on capital, this was down to three per cent.

It is obvious that an interest rate reduction of one per cent can only have a minimal effect.

The major cost element is labour, which devours 50 per cent of gross earnings. And this is where action should be taken. Another major element is the cost of raw materials, where Germany depends almost entirely on imports and where it can exert only indirect influence via the exchange rate.

This, in turn, forces Germany to pursue a solid monetary policy because a weak deutschemark would make imports considerably more expensive.

But personnel costs remain a decisive factor, though one that can be influenced. Here, the flexibility of the once maligned American trade unions would help. By contrast, the German unions, *praised for their sense of responsibility in good times, are now producing even more jobless.*

But all this is responsible for only one of the problems of German industry, i.e. its lack of competitiveness on international markets.

The other problem that no interest rate reduction can cure is of a structural nature.

Even if money were to cost a (utopian) five per cent, refrigerators, freezers and washing machines would not sell because people already have them.

Naturally, the interest rate reduction is welcome and will prove helpful to some extent. But it will not overcome the slump, as many pundits will soon find out.

Franz Thoma

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 August 1982)

Mood lightens as interest rates come down

The central bank, the Bundesbank, has cut its Lombard bank rate from 9 to 8 per cent and its discount rate from 7.5 to 7 per cent. The deutschemark immediately made an improvement against the dollar. Interest rate cuts were also made in Switzerland and the Netherlands and the Bank of England cut its money market intervention rate three days in a row. The moves were designed to take advantage of the decline in American rates and get the respective economies going again.

The lowering of interest rates is a welcome piece of news, coming as it does after so much bad news. The mood of business and consumers alike has improved.

The hope now is that both investment and private spending will increase. Now that some forms of savings have become less attractive, people might decide to spend the cash instead.

For two years, the Bundesbank has resisted all demands for a marked reduction in the discount rate as a means of stimulating the economy.

Instead it chose carefully to use other means to keep the brakes on inflation and not to worsen the balance of payments.

The decision to lower not only the Lombard but the discount rate as well must be seen as more than just a message to the business community and the consumer.

The banks will now have no choice but to reduce their own rates. The first announcements have already been made.

This swift reaction by the banks makes it obvious that the Bundesbank was overdue in taking some action.

Declining interest rates in the USA made the decision easier. If the American trend continues it will provide even more room for further cuts.

Despite the approval for these cuts in all political and business quarters, we must beware of too much enthusiasm.

The mostly under-capitalised business community still has to pay out a lot in interest.

Rates of 14 per cent for overdraft facilities and 0.6 per cent a month for instalment credits (as announced by a major bank after the Bundesbank decision) are hardly insignificant.

It would be wrong to think that reduced cost of money has now pa[...] the way for a rapid upswing.

There are other factors that still [...] pose a heavy burden on the busin[...] community. And even exports, the [...] promising area, have flagged this s[...]mer.

And then there is Bonn's disastr[...] budgetary position. To make ma[...] worse, the government has just p[...]poned a decision on repairing the d[...]cit in the 1983 budget.

As a result, there is now even m[...] uncertainty about Bonn's future Trea[...]ry policy.

The Bundesbank has once [...] proved its ability to adapt its mone[...] policy to do equal justice to such n[...] as fighting inflation, bringing abou[...] foreign trade balance and keeping in[...]est rates at a reasonable level.

It is now up to the Bonn governm[...] to take the next step on this tight-[...] between fiscal and economic policy.

Bonn will have to choose betw[...] welfare state considerations and a c[...]solidation of the budget without ta[...]creases and without additional borr[...]ing as a means of boosting the econo[...] and promoting investments to c[...] jobs.

Rainer Dierma[...]

(Nordwest Zeitung, 27 Augus[...])

Bundesbank's decision is welcomed

Frankfurter Allgemeine
ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

The Bundesbank decision to lo[...] interest rates has been welcomed [...] Bonn.

Finance Minister Manfred Lahnst[...] said that the conditions for an upsw[...] had now greatly improved.

The Bundesbank, he said, has pr[...]ded new investment incentives for [...] business community.

Lahnstein said he hoped that [...] banks would pass on the reduced in[...]est rates to their customers in the fo[...] of improved refinancing conditions.

The Federation of German Indu[...] (BDI) said the decision was "an imp[...]tant and encouraging signal." The B[...]desbank had acted in keeping with [...] difficult economic situation while st[...]ing to its anti-inflationary course.

It is to be hoped, the BDI says, t[...] the new rates will have an effect on [...] banks' terms for credits.

But the Bundesbank decision co[...] only become fully effective if the st[...] were to give clear indications of its [...]termination to consolidate public se[...] budgets.

The Standing Conference of Germ[...] Commerce and Industry (DIHT) [...] sees the bank's decision as encourag[...]

But, it said, Bonn's fiscal policy [...]mains the main risk factor for mone[...] stability and growth.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze[...] für Deutschland, 27 August [...])

Continued from page 3

the influence Kohl and Strauss can exert.

After the last session of the CDU presidium, Kohl stressed that this executive body can only make recommendations and that it cannot impose a special stance on the parliamentary group.

The same applies to the prime ministers of the *Länder* with conservative governments.

It is up to them to decide what attitude to adopt in the Bundesrat, and in doing so state interests and the financial problems of the municipalities must play a major role.

Since the conservatives' possibilities lie more in the Bundesrat than in the Bundestag, the discussion on attitudes to adopt is heavily dominated by the prime ministers, some of whom consider themselves chancellorship alternatives to Kohl.

The CDU leadership is at least prepared to consider removing certain tax advantages proposed by the government. But CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler says this clashes with Franz Josef Strauss's uncompromising attitude; and he's right.

The CDU's anger is probably not so much directed against Geissler as the fact that the dissension between the conservative parties has now become evident.

What (at least some) conservatives now want is to create sufficient scope of action in case they are faced with the task of repairing the budget.

They do not want to lose credibility at the very beginning of the promised change.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 September 1982)

■ INDUSTRY

Everyone caught on the hop as steel firms drop an ingot

Krupp and Thyssen have announced that they want to join forces to [...]ke and market special steels.

The step surprised everyone, particu[...]ly another steelmaker, Hoesch, which [...]blicly agreed in February to merge [...]th Krupp and form Ruhrstahl AG.

Krupp and Thyssen have appointed [...]r committees to investigate the ad[...]ntage of a merger, and there is no [...]estion of talking with Hoesch.

The situation is difficult. If the new [...]al does go ahead, the Ruhrstahl idea [...]uld be worthless. A lot of money has [...]ady been invested in it.

Chairman of the Dortmund-based [...]esch, Detlev Carsten Rohwedder, re[...]rds the proposal as a sellout.

A Krupp-Thyssen statement says the [...] of a merger would be to improve [...]ernational competitiveness of special [...]els. The establishment of Ruhrstahl [...] would not help this, it said.

The new company would be known [...] Deutsche Edelstahlwerke AG, a [...]me with tradition. It was removed [...]m the register in 1975 when Thyssen [...]erged with Edelstahlwerke Witten [...]

The cards in the poker game over the [...]ure of Germany's steel industry were [...]shuffled and dealt by Dieter Speth[...]nn, chairman of Thyssen AG in [...]isburg, and Krupp Stahl AG boss [...]rold Beitz.

Thyssen is the soundest steel firm in Europe.

As the alarm bells rang among the [...]000 workers directly affected by the [...]al, North Rhine-Westphalia's Econo[...]ic Affairs Minister Reimut Jochimsen [...]ely commented that he was [...]ry surprised."

But Beitz just couldn't resist the [...]ptation put in his way by Speth[...]nn's proposal of a merger in the spe[...]al steels sector.

In the original merger, Hoesch and Krupp Stahl are each to hold 50 per [...] of the stock.

Ruhrstahl AG, in its turn, is to hold [...] per cent of the new special steel [...]t — again on a 50-50 basis, but this [...] shared with Thyssen.

The idea behind the deal is that all [...]ecial steel works of Thyssen and [...]upp, with their sales organisations, [...] be combined in an independent [...]ecial steel company still to be estab[...]shed. Specialised works such as stain[...]s steel activities in Solingen and sin[...]ed steel, are included.

Among the open areas are the casting [...]ions of Thyssen and the Gerlach and [...]lnghaus participations in Krupp.

According to the bleuprint, the Thys[...] subsidiaries AEG-Elotherm, Mag[...]fabrik Dortmund, Essenstahl and [...]kmann are to remain unaffected.

[...]id a disappointed Minister Jochim[...]: "After more than two years of dis[...]sions about major and minor trios of [...]panies and tripartite solutions, we [...] that we could safely assume this [...]mer that the chief executives of the [...]panies concerned had given plenty [...]ought to what they decided in their [...]ardrooms in February, and that even [...] thought would have been given [...] the matter when they applied for [...] investment subsidies on 30 [...]."

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

A works council member put it more bluntly when he said: "Who's taking who for a ride?"

The 18,000 Hoesch workers are reminded of 1968 when a Hoesch-Mannesmann merger seemed ready for signing.

But then, at the last moment, Mannesmann negotiated with Thyssen and the two companies are said to have agreed on a deal within less than an hour.

Hoesch was left in the lurch. Two years later, it began negotiating with the Dutch Hoogovens group. The result was the Estel merger, that has since wound up on the rocks.

Jochimsen also sees similarities to 1968: "One must soberly note that the situation in a special steel merger is fundamentally different. Ruhrstahl, in the generally anticipated form, is dead. There appears to be a tripartite solution coming up. I've also noted that Krupp has departed from the original financing concept for the envisaged Ruhrstahl."

What his words boil down to is a threat: If the Minister sticks to his present assessment, Krupp will have a tough time getting the subsidies and guarantees it applied for under the Steel Investment Subsidies Act. Bonn's financial booster shots are also uncertain now.

In terms of the EEC Subsidies Code, the restructuring measures should have been reported by 30 June. In terms of the Code, that is the final deadline and nothing can be done after then.

Bonn and the individual states have to arrive at a preliminary decision by 30 September before forwarding the application to Brussels.

The new company would be huge and have a near monopoly in many sectors.

At Thyssen, some 16,000 workers and annual sales of about DM3bn would be at risk, about one-quarter of Thyssen's steel sales and just under ten per cent of the overall steel production.

At Krupp, the deal would affect 8,000 workers and annual sales of about DM2bn. This about 50 per cent of the overall rolled steel sales and 30 per cent of the total crude steel output.

If special steel is taken away from Krupp AG the company will be no more than a torso, insiders say.

It was this category of steel that Krupp went out of its way to develop in a bid to offset the loss-generating bulk steel sector. And it is here that the company concentrated its investments.

The special steel share of overall rolled steel sales has thus more than doubled since 1975.

Along with Thyssen and Krupp, the Iron and Steel Federation considers that special steel, with its complicated alloys that are hard to imitate, has the best growth prospects despite losses in the steel disaster year 1981.

Ruhr area experts therefore suspect Thyssen, still financially strong and a steel leader, of wanting to pave the way to a golden future under the cloak of "company-transcending solutions," as loudly demanded by the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry.

Due to its financial strength and technical potential, Europe's biggest steel producer is expected to take over the helm of the new Deutsche Edelstahlwerke once the deal is put into effect.

It is feared that Ruhrstahl on the other hand — especially in Dortmund — will have to continue coping with the remaining problem sectors at the taxpayer's expense.

Moreover, the present financing and investment calculations, personnel planning and feasibility studies of Ruhrstahl can no longer apply once half the sales — the more profitable half — fall away.

Equity company

The new Deutsche Edelstahlwerke would be handled by Thyssen and Ruhrstahl as a pure equity company, meaning that it would not have to transfer earnings to the parents.

Krupp Stahl chairman Gödde explained: "The participants want to bring about an additional private enterprise and company-transcending cooperation as demanded by the EEC Commission and the Bonn government."

This was "an important contribution towards the solution of Europe's eight-year steel crisis."

Leonhard Spielhofer

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 28 August 1982)

Huge shale-oil deal planned with Venezuela

Germany's largest public company, Veba AG, is about to sign a spectacular deal with Venezuela to extract shale oil in the Orinoco basin.

The arrangement was announced by Veba chief executive Rudolf von Bennigsen at the annual meeting.

There has been essentially little publicity surrounding it, although it is just as spectacular as the Veba takeover of Gelsenberg AG in 1974 and the Veba deal with BP in 1978.

The second of those deals took two years to arrange. It was code named 4711, but was not quite as cosy an arrangement as that.

The Ruhr area industrialists were annoyed because the gas giant Ruhrgas AG went to the international oil companies Esso, Shell and BP, and the oil business was unhappy because the deal made BP Germany's biggest oil company.

Change and growth at Veba seem to have followed a four-year rhythm during the Bennigsen era.

Since the BP deal (which cost Veba DM3bn worth of sales) the giant's earnings have risen from DM25bn to DM50bn — inflation naturally helped.

There is no sign of a change when comparing Veba's policy since 1968 and what Bennigsen envisaged at the latest AGM.

Then Veba was extending its oil processing capacities and gearing its trade to the company's limited possibilities. In a crude market that was growing narrower all the time, Veba lacked the necessary upstream potential.

The Ruhrgas deal as a compensating factor could easily be justified by pointing to the fact that Veba could not very well be interested in a financial involvement in a market on which it could not sell and that was in any event blocked by the provident policy of the Ruhrgas board.

So Veba took the DM800m from BP, rounded off its chemicals involvement with Hüls, consolidated its trade, hiked its shipping and transport involvements and raised its nuclear energy sector to 42 per cent.

In the pruned oil sector, Veba Öl's strategist Fritz Oschmann had his sights levelled at one target only: to provide the highly sophisticated refinery installations with the necessary raw materials in order to once more make money in the integrated business.

For Oschmann, the raw material has always been seen in a triple form as crude, heavy oil and shale oil. The latter is plentiful in Venezuela's Orinoco basin.

The objective was clear and has been pursued consistently over the past four years: the construction of conversion plants that would turn the unloved heavy heating oil into naphtha for the chemicals industry and petrol for motor vehicles.

So Rudolf von Bennigsen's announcement at the AGM neatly fits the industrial jugsaw puzzle: A contract is about to be signed with Venezuela that would give Veba the exploitation rights for the Orinoco shale oil. In the deal, Venezuela is to provide the resources while Veba is to contribute its know-how and technology.

People unfamiliar with the script for von Bennigsen's address were naturally unaware that he made an insertion permitting a glimpse into the concern's future regarding the full-of-problem oil business. In the passage dealing with the processing of heavy crude, he inserted the words "in the Federal Republic of Germany".

The conclusion to be drawn from this is that Veba will extend its raw materials basis with the Orinoco deal and that the existing (and still to be erected) processing facilities will be working to capacity and hence profitably.

Von Bennigsen's invitation to other refineries to dismantle their unprofitable installations and enter into cooperation deals with Veba, using the giant's modern refineries, points towards consolidation and concentration in the form of mergers.

Anybody who, like Veba Öl, can gain strength in an upstream business and flex its muscles in the processing sector, is unlikely to sever downstream ties by abandoning its integrated business.

So there was no need for von Bennigsen to deny that Aral will retain its 56 per cent stake in Veba.

Anybody with a good cow in his stable will hardly be prepared to sell his milk shop at the very moment when he has acquired a juicy pasture for the beast.

Hans Baumann

(Die Welt, 31 August 1982)

■ PERSPECTIVE

United Nations looks at the problems of the old-age explosion

There will be more old people in the world, both numerically and in percentage terms, by the turn of the century than ever before.

US diplomat William H. Kerrigan, says a generation will see society undergo a total change.

Mr Kerrigan, 64, was general-secretary of the UN conference on ageing in Vienna, one of the largest and, arguably, most important ever held under the UN's aegis.

He has the statistics: in 1950 there were about 200 million over-60s in the world, in 1970 307 million, and by 2000 there will be nearly 600 million.

The average life expectancy of a baby born at the turn of the century will be 64.4 years: 73.6 in the industrialised and 63 in developing countries.

In a mere half-century the number of people we refer to so cordially yet so shamefacedly as senior citizens will have trebled.

In the near future they will be the fastest-growing age group, with five generations in one family not infrequently being alive at one and the same time.

In the next 20 years the world's population as a whole will increase by 70 per cent to 6.7 billion, but the increase in the number of over-60s will be 90 per cent.

By the turn of the century old people will make up nine per cent of the population.

There will be an estimated 101 million of them in Europe, including two thirds widows and spinsters.

Already the proportion of over-65s in Europe is 13.9 and in North America 10.6 per cent.

Yet it would be wrong to regard ageing as a problem typical of industrialised societies. It is increasingly common in the Third World too.

"Now we have fatal mass diseases under control," Mr Kerrigan says, "life expectancy in the developing countries is increasing much faster than was expected only a few years ago."

South and East Asia head the list. Over the next 20 years their over-60s are expected to increase in number by 102 per cent.

Then comes Africa, where old people are expected to double, and Latin America, where the growth rate is assessed at 82 per cent.

So in choosing to deal with old age the UN hit on one of the most explosive issues of the day. Its aim was to brief a wider public on the varied social, economic and political repercussions of the trend.

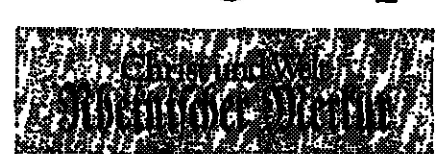
The conference did not proclaim a global strategy by which to deal with this major social revolution; it was not intended to do so.

Several regional preparatory conferences had shown that the problem arose in entirely different ways in different parts of the world.

Any measures undertaken must bear in mind the respective social and cultural background.

In Latin America, for instance, what matters first and foremost is to develop the rudiments of government welfare provisions for old age.

As yet over 20 per cent of men over



65 carry on working. They haven't enough money to be able to afford to call it a day.

In Africa, where generally speaking the old are still held in great respect what matters is to maintain the extended family as the cornerstone of society.

It is increasingly jeopardised by the development of education, by growing urbanisation and by industrialisation. Grants to help families to look after their older members would be desirable.

In Asia all manner of moves are under consideration. Communist China would do well to consolidate the family as a social institution; it is still intact in many parts of the country.

Thailand could lend local authorities financial support to enable them to improve health care.

Japan may have to deal with the psychological shock felt by a generation of pensioners suddenly deprived of their place in a society very much geared to performance at work.

Problems of equal magnitude were tabled by delegates from Europe and North America, with mention for example being made of the growing risk of single women drawing pensions that were not enough to subsist on.

Then there were the old folk in reasonable health and of sound mind who were shunted off into a home because they were too much trouble for their children.

There was the changing sense of values in which old people no longer enjoyed their privileged position as testators and handers-down of knowledge.

"More and more people earn their living not from property but from working for others," Mr Kerrigan says. "The home as the family's joint production facility seldom survives."

Peripheral mention was also made of how easily the current economic difficulties in so-called progressive countries could lead to totally mistaken welfare policies.

A growing number of trade union officials advocate early retirement as a solution to unemployment among the young. They either fail or refuse to see that this would merely replace one problem by another.

Old people ought to work longer to ease the pensions burden on the young, but that would make competition for jobs even tougher.

Thirty years ago 100 working people had to maintain 19 old-age pensioners and 45 children. By 2025 they will have to maintain 40 old people and 35 children.

Given such a wide range of problems the Vienna conference could do little more than make a few general recommendations to governments and policy-makers in member-countries.

It advisedly drew attention to the family, saying its role in caring for the aged could not be taken over by even the best welfare provisions.

It recommended improving the economic circumstances of individual families so they could continue to afford to look after the older generation.

It called for close collaboration between existing welfare facilities and families in question.

This may sound trite and in part wishful thinking. Mr Kerrigan is right in commenting that the UN had merely been able to point out what enormous obligations lay ahead.

It will be up to individual countries to ensure they have the national capacity to cope with this imminent social revolution.

Inge Santner

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 13 August 1982)

Grey Panthers leap to the aid of the elderly

Wilhelmine Lübke, wife of the second Bonn head of state, set up a foundation to deal with the problems of the aged.

It has been instrumental in drawing attention to the difficulties of a growing number of pensioners and old people.

So has the Senior Citizens' Protection League in Wuppertal, an organisation better known by its trendier and more imaginative name, the Grey Panthers.

They are run by Trude Unruh, the nimble chairwoman who runs campaigns, stages demonstrations and publishes pamphlets to focus attention on the problems of the old.

Frau Unruh is currently setting up regional branches and causing an unholy rumpus in what is surely a good cause, as several Social Affairs Ministers might ruefully admit.

She has not always been polite or even-handed in the way she has set about accusing them of unfair treatment or demanded to see the Minister.

In principle both organisations, the Lübke Foundation in Cologne and the Grey Panthers in Wuppertal, aim to bring about a decisive improvement in living conditions of the elderly.

The Panthers refer to protection from arbitrary treatment, liberation from tutelage and clarification on points unknown. The Foundation couches its demands in slightly more dulcet tones.

Both are determined to promote awareness among the public in general and in political bodies in particular of the problems that arise.

They both want to foster understanding among people who will one day themselves be among the senior citizens whose worries they now blandly ignore.

Old people's homes are rapped: "People who are still fairly well able to look after themselves are harmed by overprotection, whereas those who need care and attention don't get enough."

If you are sick and need care in an old people's home you can currently expect to have to pay DM50 to DM90 a day toward your unkeep.

Most people exhaust their savings in this way and are then dependent on welfare. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs that ought to be remedied.

Upkeep charges amount to between DM1bn and DM5bn a year and totally change the face of care for the aged in much the same way as health insurance changed the face of hospitals.

It's not just the way old people are treated; it's also their living quarters. One home-dweller in three lives in a room even smaller than the paltry minimum.

Understaffing creates problems too. Old people can be forced into unsatisfactory daily routines because there is no-one to look after them at the right time.

"Confused" old people may be tied up. Others may be given too many tranquillisers and sedatives. Staff short of time or short on qualifications may provide poor service.

Staff who feel aggressive because their working conditions are unsatisfactory may let off steam on their unfortunate charges.

Hire more staff, the critics say, especially qualified staff. With nearly two million people out of work the argument that staff are not available sounds less credible than it did two or three years ago.

The Grey Panthers table even more explosive proposals. Pensioners, over-65s, they say, should be entitled to a minimum pension of DM1,250 a month, boosted by personal pension rights to a maximum of DM3,500.

All wage-earners are to pay a five per-cent levy to bankroll this minimum pension, yet social security contributions are to be reduced by three per cent.

Instead of isolating old people in homes they want to see houses, apartments and care centres rented and run with self-administration and right of residence until death.

Homes should be equipped in accordance with the needs of residents. Construction of large facilities should be stopped and size be limited to [illegible] residents at most.

Local authorities should set up old people's departments to provide information, advice and support. Special legal provision should be made to help and protect the old.

These are but a handful of the Panthers' demands, and given an ounce of goodwill on the politicians' part many could well be met, although some may take time.

What old people want can hardly be regarded as utopian in view of the shocking conditions faced by 450,000 old people living in homes and many more on their own or with members of their families.

Conditions are unsatisfactory and cry out for improvement. Politicians would do well to sit up and bear in mind that by the turn of the century one voter in three will be a senior citizen.

Günther Leicht

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 10 August 1982)

RESEARCH

Scientists uncover more about the how, where, when and why of earthquakes

Nearly every year an earthquake somewhere in the world takes its toll of lives and property: thousands or tens of thousands of lives and damage running into the billions.

Entire areas and even entire cultures can be destroyed. Earthquakes seem to be natural disasters from which there is no escape.

This need not be so. Scientists all over the world are working on ways of early forecasting tremors and enabling people to be evacuated in time and damage to be restricted to a minimum.

The department of geophysical sciences at the Free University of Berlin is associated with an earthquake early warning project in a particularly 'quake-prone part of Turkey.

The project is being run by Istanbul University scientists with support from West Berlin in the form of Professor Andreas Vogel.

Why Berlin, a city hardly noted for seismic activity? Professor Vogel's career is partly the reason. He studied geophysics in Stuttgart, where he was taught by a professor with a special interest in seismology.

He went on to do research into seismic activity in southern Germany, where tremors are more frequent. Then he spent 15 years at Uppsala University, Sweden, where he built up the geophysics department.

He also developed seismic recording devices and equipment to register geophysical changes of the kind that occur prior to tremors and 'quakes.

He continued this work when he was appointed to a chair at the Free University of Berlin in 1972.

In 1978 he organised an international conference in Strasbourg at which the measurement and suitable recording equipment of geophysical changes before a major earthquake were dealt with.

Scientists from East and West attended the conference, including Turkish seismologists.

At his suggestion an Instanbul University research project was launched in the 'quake-prone Northern Anatolian fault zone.

Professor Vogel and his Berlin department were happy to give advice on the project.

A rethink in geophysics and seismology is, to some extent, the reason why the time, place and strength of an earthquake are now more predictable.

Scientists no longer feel that the occurrence of tremors and the place where they occur are largely coincidental and the result of what goes on deep down in the bowels of the earth.

Since the 50s Alfred Wegener's continental drift theory has given rise to the theory of plate tectonics, according to which the surface of the earth floats in plates like icebergs on a viscous layer inside the globe.

The firmer top surface of the earth, consisting of stone formations, comes up against more recent geological formations at the edges of these plates.

These points of least resistance, or geological faults, are where earthquakes and volcanic activity constantly recur.

These plates or crusts seem to be continually on the move, which is not necessarily dangerous.

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Smaller tremors in 'quake-prone areas merely testify to plate edges hitting each other and letting off steam as they move around.

It is when minor tremors stop that trouble may be in store because a backlog of pent-up energy is waiting to be released.

So a major earthquake may then well occur, and Professor Vogel and his Turkish colleagues base their 'quake forecasting project on this assumption.

An earthquake, they feel, is the gradual result of pent-up geo-dynamic energy the build-up of which can be followed before it blows its top.

Models that admit of an early warning assessment of likely seismic activity may make forecasting possible in three respects provided observations and measurements in Turkey bear them out:

1. The location of the next outbreak or outbreaks of seismic activity can be roughly identified.

2. The degree and consequences of seismic activity can be roughly estimated.

3. The frequency of seismic activity can be forecast, and with it roughly when the next 'quake can be expected to occur.

There are several good reasons for putting forecasting techniques to the test in Turkey. The Northern Anatolian fault extends right across the country and has been the scene of repeated seismic activity in the past.

Besides, tremors seem to move across the fault in a specific direction. Centres of 'quake activity do not move to and fro; they move in a definite direction, making it easier to forecast where the next tremor will occur.

Earthquakes may seem to be an act of God but science today feels they occur in accordance with strict principles and certainly not like a bolt out of the blue. People who live in 'quake-prone areas are well aware of some of the phenomena that generally mean a tremor is about to occur.

Animals grow restless just before the 'quake. The water in wells grows cloudy days or hours beforehand without apparent reason.

The water-level changes in still waters, gas escapes from the ground, the earth moves ever so slightly without there being a distinct tremor.

The first earthquake was successfully forecast by virtue of such precursors in China in 1975. The population of Haicheng, 100,000, were evacuated in the morning; the town was flattened by a 'quake that same evening.

In addition to the better-known precursors fresh early warning signs are being identified in Northern Anatolia, signs that can only be identified by means of new and highly sensitive recording devices.

They include changes in the electrical and magnetic properties of geological formations just before a tremor.

There are also plans to harness space research technology to monitor the expansion and contraction of 'quake-prone areas more closely.

Specialists in geodesy, the science of earth measurement on a large scale, allowing for the earth's curvature, have hitherto carried out their surveys at ground level in the areas affected.

But this calls for a large number of staff, and collecting and evaluating material takes time. Often enough measurements are contradictory because they are not sufficiently exact.

Expansion and contraction can now be identified to within a centimetre per 100km by aircraft flying across the territory under observation at short and regular intervals.

The aircraft beam lasers at a series of reflectors on the ground, or would do if routine overflights were undertaken. But for the time being Nasa has agreed for a Space Shuttle to be equipped with lasers to experiment with the technique.

The research scientists associated with the Anatolian projects are less interested in an early warning system to enable people to be evacuated from 'quake areas.

They are keener to find out whether their computer models and assumptions are going to be any use in providing location, 'quake-safe construction and earthquake relief activities by the authorities.

This, says Professor Vogel, is the only way in which precautions can be successfully taken against seismic activity that would be of use both to Anatolia and the world at large.

He is convinced nearly all the world's 'quake-prone areas will benefit from the project's findings.

What 'quake engineers are mainly interested in finding out is whether and how often seismic activity can be expected to occur in areas off-centre in relation to the main areas of activity.

Also, they would very much like to have some idea of what rating on the Richter scale any such activity might be likely to have.

Dieter Dietrich

(Der Tagesspiegel, 28 August 1982)

X-ray astronomy opens up bright new worlds

Twenty years ago a research rocket with two X-ray detectors on board was launched and sent up to 230km from White Sands, the US launching facility.

A team of scientists headed by Ricardo Giaconni, a 28-year-old Italian, discovered two objects in the signals which returned to earth.

They were named Sco X 1 and Cyg X 1 and located in the Scorpion and Cygnus constellations. Both emitted X-rays, and their discovery is generally acknowledged as marking the beginning of X-ray astronomy.

Research satellites such as Uhuru, launched from a platform off the Kenyan coast on the seventh anniversary of independence from Britain, and HEAO 1 and 2 in the late 70s have located more than 5,000 such sources of radiation.

Many emit enormously powerful radiation, the output of which can only be attributed to assistance from other heavenly bodies.

Neutron stars, or so-called black holes, both dying stars with an extremely high mass, are suspected of attracting matter from neighbouring heavenly bodies.

This matter then hits their surface with enormous impact, causing degrees of heat required for X-rays to be emitted.

Europe is to take a closer look at his area of research in October, when the Exosat X-ray satellite is to be launched by an Ariane rocket.

The Exosat has been developed by a consortium of European companies led by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of Munich.

By 1987 the Bonn Research ministry plans to have Rosat, a German X-ray satellite put into orbit at an altitude of 500km by the US Space Shuttle.

Scientists plan to use Exosat to keep an eye on known cosmic sources of radiation for a longer period, whereas Rosat will scan the sky for further X-ray sources before taking a closer look at individual stars.

German research facilities associated with the Rosat project include the Max Planck Institute of Extra-Terrestrial Physics in Garching, Munich, which has overall responsibility for the scientific management.

Then there is the Federal Aerospace Research Institute (DFVLR), responsi-

Continued on page 10

■ ENERGY

Ship-based wind power station goes into trials

Floating wind power stations are not science fiction. On Sylt, Germany's North Sea holiday island, they are hard fact.

After a year's preparation Dr Günther Wagner has started building a 250-kilowatt prototype. In five months a 30-metre boat has been converted and fitted out with the Wagner rotor.

How, you may wonder, can a wind power station be housed on board a ship without making it keel over? The Wagner rotor resembles a two-wing propeller.

The blades are arranged at right angles to each other so that they turn in a hollow, as it were.

If the axis is shifted 45 degrees from the horizontal the hub of the propeller can be located at ground-level. A tower, like that of the Growian power windmill on the nearby Schleswig-Holstein mainland, is no longer needed.

The centre of gravity is so low that the Wagner rotor can be mounted on a ship's deck. Heavy parts, such as gears and the generator, can be housed below deck.

The prototype has been put through its paces in up to Force 9 gales. From Force 10 onwards the rotor is switched off.

Floating wind power stations, says Dr Wagner, an engineer, could be built at shipyards and shipped into position, and construction costs should be lower than alternative wind power systems.

The Wagner rotor and system also compare well with nuclear power, which currently costs up to DM5,000 per kilowatt of installed capacity, whereas wind power would cost between DM1,000 and DM1,500.

The first large-scale unit to feed power into the island's grid is under construction. A Hamburg shipping company has started fitting out an 80-metre freighter with a seven-megawatt Wagner rotor.

The wind power station will be anchored off Sylt at a pole from which a submarine cable will run electric power ashore.

There are plans to install two floating wind power stations, one off List to the north, one off Hörnum in the south of Sylt. The first is to be taken into service at the end of the year.

The islanders' average power consumption is 20 megawatts, so the floating power stations should be able to supply between a third and a half of requirements.

If power from the mainland were to fail at the same time as the ships were becalmed, gas turbines on board the vessels would generate an emergency power supply.

The Bonn Research and Technology Ministry is to back accompanying research, and Dr Wagner expects Bonn to underwrite any financial risks the project entails.

Water, sea, sky and wind ... Dr Günther Wagner's experimental sea-based power station. (Photo: Vd...)

But in all other respects it is being privately financed. The shipping company is investing an initial DM10m or so but expects to earn DM2.5m a year or so from the electric power generated.

Negotiations for a 20-year contract are under way with the regional power board and the island authorities.

Burgomaster Klaus von Dohnanyi of Hamburg recently visited the experimental vessel. He and Dr Wagner discussed possibilities of floating wind power for an island in the Elbe estuary that belongs to the city.

Wind power, it has been suggested, would make the island, Neuwerk, less dependent on electricity from coal-fired or nuclear power stations.

Burgomaster Dohnanyi was very much in favour of harnessing the sea winds to generate power and outlined his plans to make Hamburg a centre of research into progressive and regenerative energy techniques.

Dr Wagner says electric power from wind energy would be both economic and feasible for the city. Referring to the Sylt project, he adds:

"Meteorologically speaking, energy could be harnessed off Neuwerk that generates much more power than Brunsbüttel's 700 megawatts of nuclear power, and without imposing the ... financial burden on the city."

More than one floating wind power station would naturally be needed to generate 700 megawatts, but Dr Wagner says negotiations with a number of shipowners are under way.

Shipbuilders are understandably interested, since if the Wagner rotor proves its worth off Sylt orders could be expected to placed with shipyards, safeguarding in the long term jobs at present in jeopardy.

Floating wind power stations could generate power for other North Sea islands and coastal areas. They could also prove a major export.

Neighbouring Denmark and Holland have their fair share of North Sea wind and would be happy to harness the ... Ireland, the Mediterranean countries and many long-coastline Third World states would also be likely customers.

International interest is already apparent. Dr Wagner has been invited to come to Stockholm in September with his ship and demonstrate in practice to an international wind energy conference how power can be generated this way.

Günter Degler

(Der Tagesspiegel, 21 August 1982)

Astronomy with X-rays

Continued from page 9

ble for project management, Carl Zeiss of Oberkochen, near Stuttgart, and the aerospace industry.

Oberpfaffenhofen space control centre, Munich, will receive Rosat data and relay them to Garching for evaluation.

British and American research institutes wil also lend a hand by providing special detectors and sharing the DM300m the project is expected to cost.

The most important measuring device on board the German satellite will be the largest reflecting telescope ever built to observe radiation of this kind.

It will have an aperture of 83 cm, as X-rays can only be deliberately diffracted when they are reflected at a very narrow angle from a smooth surface.

Since X-rays have a wavelength that is about 1,000 times smaller than that of visible light the mirror surface must be extremely smooth.

Unevenness must not amount to more than the diameter of a few atoms, or a few ten-millionths of a millimetre, as otherwise the radiation would be diffused and not reflected.

Carl Zeiss have to develop entirely new grinding and polishing techniques to manufacture such high-precision mirrors, and the technological challenge is enormous.

According to a principle discovered by Hans Wolter, a Kiel physicist, in 1951 X-ray mirrors are both parabolic and hyperbolic in curvature.

Four Wolter mirrors will be arranged together on board Rosat, from which nearly all kinds of astronomical objects, from stars near the Sun to the most remote quasars at the edge of the universe, will be visible by X-ray.

The pictures taken in four energy ... tors can be shown in colour.

Rosat will have a life-span of ... years, ending with something special if Professor Joachim Trümper and his Munich staff have their way.

They hope the satellite will be retrieved by the Space Shuttle and returned to earth to be fitted out with improved instruments in preparation for a further mission.

Michael Globig

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 27 August 1982)

LITERATURE

Jünger controversy won't go away

Ernst Jünger, 87, this year's Frankfurt Goethe Prize-winner, is a writer held in great esteem in France.

In Germany he is increasingly being hailed as a major European writer, although some critics still feel Jünger is suspect. He was long accused of championing a morbid heroism, a hierarchical pattern of thought and an ideology of submission.

In other words, he was said to be a reactionary writer who paved the way for National Socialism.

There can hardly be a contemporary writer about whom judgements vary so widely, although one is bound to add that the most radical views are often held by people who have read virtually nothing he has written.

The emotion-laden, ongoing dispute between supporters and opponents of Jünger can certainly be said to indicate that his work deals with key issues of our age.

The complexity and tension-laden, contradictory nature of Jünger's views prompt one to take sides and make it impossible to write him off by means of convenient equations.

He was born in 1895 in Heidelberg, where his father was a chemist and pharmacist. He joined the French Foreign Legion as an 18-year-old, but his father brought him home within a few weeks.

After this escapade he went back to school, but a year later he volunteered for service in the First World War. Between 1914 and 1918 he fought almost without interruption on the Western front.

He was injured 14 times and shortly before the war ended was awarded the Pour le Mérite, the highest award for gallantry.

The Great War made a lasting mark on his memory, providing the subject matter of his first book, *In Stahlgewittern* (In Thunderstorms of Steel), published in 1920.

It was an authentic report on the experiences experienced in the front-line war of attrition and how to survive the inferno.

Jünger was by no means blind to the horror and bloodshed of the war and starkly described the emotional collapse of a young officer when almost his entire company was wiped out at one fell swoop.

In his later 20s books, which try to arrive at conclusions from his wartime experiences, he comes close to a mystically-tinged heroism, a New Nationalism.

It is in his work during this period that affinities are said to have arisen with up-and-coming National Socialism.

But his behaviour in the 30s showed that ideologically-based critics often oversimplify matters. When Ernst Niekisch, a socialist, was arrested Jünger gave his family a home.

He refused to join the Berlin Academy after it had been reorganised by the Nazis. He resisted bids by Goebbels in person to persuade him to join the Nazi party.

His *Marmorklippen* (Marble Cliffs), published in 1939, was a covert but unmistakable settlement with Hitler's reign of terror.

He survived the Second World War as a Wehrmacht captain, mainly in occupied France. He was closely linked with a conspiracy in the officer corps but did not directly take part in the failed coup of 20 July 1944.

His Second World War years are reflected in *Strahlungen* (Radiations), his collection of diaries. They testify to the attempt to take a detached look at contemporary events and to maintain intellectual identity in a real world that was confused and sombre.

After the war he published a wide range of travelogues, essays and narrative work, latterly including the novels *Die Zwille* and *Eumeswil* and two important volumes of diaries entitled *Siebzig verweht*.

After publication of his war diaries he was accused by some critics of unfeeling aestheticism and an inclination to elitist arrogance.

There is indeed an aristocratic gesture in Jünger's withdrawal to the superior stance of an observer, but his striving to retain his identity and come to contemplative terms with events must be acknowledged as a legitimate, not to say essential form of coming to terms with the world.

Accusations of inhuman indifference carry no conviction. In his diaries Jünger expressly identifies himself with the maxim: "Always keep an eye on the unlucky."

He also notes that the dreadful crimes about which he hears threaten to rob him of all capacity to form images and ideas.

Jünger increasingly comes to regard history as a process that takes its natural course in accordance with an unchanging rhythm.

In his later diaries it is increasingly apparent that he feels the inner balance of modern civilisation is upset. He believes in the tumbler effect of civilisation, be which he means its inevitable self-destruction.

The natural sciences with their one-sided view are closed to reflection of any kind, he feels, that is not in tune with its quantitative approach.

Science, he pessimistically concludes, is bound to founder on its own account, in the concrete, visible world, economically, technologically and socially, as can already be seen on the horizon.

Long before today's environmentalists, the Greens, had been heard of, Jünger sadly described the imminent collapse of accrued social relationships and the destruction of nature by technology.

Yet the Greens, surely out of sheer ignorance, object to Frankfurt awarding its Goethe Prize to such a man.

In 1954 he noted, in Sardinia, on the progress of electricity and metalled roads, that:

"Illiteracy will vanish, food will be more plentiful, clothing will be better. But at the same time disatisfaction will grow and the singing will stop that can as yet be heard in the dunes from farmers and fishermen."

Jünger's interest has increasingly shifted from political issues and the sphere of superficial topicality in any respect to Nature.

He makes use of the knowledge gained by modern biology yet deliberately goes beyond the bounds of exact analysis.

He follows an artistically inspired pattern of thought aimed at comprehending entireties and interpreting them in an overall context.

The aim of this approach, using combinations and analogies, is to grasp the world as a meaningful order in which mankind is allotted a specific place.

Jünger gladly connects with mythical and mystical views and at times allows himself to engage in imaginative, sombre speculation.

In connection with his intuitive, artistic view of nature he refers to Goethe and his idea of the *Urpflanze*, or original plant.



Ernst Jünger ... cannot be judged by conventional yardsticks. (Photo: Sven Simon)

There are indeed clear affinities between the view of nature taken by the two writers. Neither makes do with a mathematical, conceptual definition of phenomena.

Both base their approach on the assumption that everything living forms a single unit and that there is an inner correspondence between nature and the subject that perceives it.

The attitudes of both toward the objects that do the observing is partly determined by a strong aesthetic component. Such affinities may well account for Jünger being awarded the Goethe Prize.

He is known to feel thet the honours society has to offer do not amount to much. "When you have gone to the dogs," he once wrote to Heidegger, "you will end up on postage stamps too."

But he has never steered entirely clear of celebrations and he has agreed to accept the Goethe Prize.

Maybe the award will prompt the literary public, inasmuch as it still does any reading, to take a closer look at Ernst Jünger's stimulating, irritating work.

Jürgen Jacobs

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 August 1982)

A name comes back from oblivion

Ernst Weiss is a name worth noting in German literature, a forgotten name retrieved from oblivion in an unprecedented tour de force by Suhrkamp, the Frankfurt publishers.

A 16-volume boxed edition of Weiss's works has appeared to mark his birth centenary on 28 August; he committed suicide in exile in Paris in 1940.

Over the next year all his work will be made available individually in paperback: 14 novels, a collection of short stories and his essays, entitled *Die Kunst des Erzählens* (The Art of Narration).

So the writer who was once called the German Dostoyevsky is back on the literary map with a vengeance.

He told tales he called detective stories of the soul. Weiss was a practising doctor and his novels are frequently set in a 20s medical background.

He has been acclaimed for the clinical exactness of his observation and for his artistic intensity. His admirers included Hermann Hesse, Stefan Zweig and Thomas Mann. Kafka was a friend of his.

Fascinated by extremes, by weakness, deformation and criminality, Weiss "composed," as he called it, his psychological novels.

Compellingly and with expressionist exuberance he described our inability to love.



Ernst Weiss ... artistic intensity. (Photo: Suhrkamp Verlag)

From his first novel *Die Galeere* (The Galley), published in 1913, to his sensational last Hitler novel *Der Augenzeuge* (The Eye-Witness), not published until 1963, he accused the world of remorseless stupidity and covert meanness.

His tragic heroes all come a cropper because they "love too much" and their dream of absolute love consumes and destroys them.

No-one would be beyond rescue, he felt, if he only really knew himself. But as it is, we remain *Tiere in Ketten* (Animals in Chains), to use the title of a 1918 novel about life in a brothel.

Even in this tale Weiss, who despite his scientific sobriety was an incurable romantic, dealt with "love betrayed."

People were left behind on its funeral pyre who were afraid of nothing and hoped for nothing and were the stuff of which the nascent dictatorship was made.

He was born in Brno, where his father was a Jewish cloth merchant, and studied medicine in Prague and Vienna. He made contact with Freudian psychoanalysis and discovered his talent for writing in making notes on patients.

He decided to work as a ship's doctor and travelled to India and Japan, the influence of which is often noticeable in his work.

In 1913 Fischer published *Die Galee-*

Continued on page 14

■ THE CINEMA

Film-maker remains basically a critic

Handelsblatt
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

Film-maker Wim Wenders has basically remained what he always was, a film critic. The cinema and the sensations it purveys have always been his topic, even where they only arose incidentally.

His preoccupation with the cinema has thus not been limited, say, to *Im Lauf der Zeit* (German title: In the Course of Time).

This was a film in which he expressly dealt with the decline of the cinematic culture he had made the acquaintance of in his youth.

Both as a writer and as a film-maker Wenders has dealt mainly with his screen idols. From the late 60s on he wrote articles for *Filmkritik, Twen* (on Eddie Constantine) and *Die Zeit* (on Robert Altman's *Nashville*).

These articles were partial (as opposed to impartial) statements of his own viewpoint in much the same way as those of the young Godard were.

He was not a writer intent on drawing a distinction between major and minor form. What he wanted was to explain the strong emotions and true feelings he felt on seeing films by his favourite directors, featuring his favourite actors and in his favourite categories.

This is a quality he shares with directors such as Alexander Kluge, Werner Herzog, Werner Schroeter and Hans-Jürgen Syberberg, whose films have always been literarily top-heavy or shown a preference for the stylistic means of other art forms, such as opera.

His latest film is *Der Stand der Dinge* (The State of Affairs). It was one of the two German entries at the Venice film festival, was shown at the Hof festival and will be networked in Germany in November.

It shows him to have come full-circle since his late-60s short films *Same Player Shoots Again, Silver City* and *Alabama — 2,000 Light Years.*

It is a final settlement (the very last reckoning?) with the Hollywood Wenders once loved so dearly, and a kind of personal swansong on the subject.

It is not easily digested film fare, and after his traumatic experience of Hollywood it must have been something of an act of liberation for Wenders himself.

It pays tribute yet again to great B film directors such as Roger Corman and Samuel Fuller.

It testifies to intense hatred of the present generation of Hollywood magnates, men who cost films and would soonest pull them out of a computer, no longer having the imagination of the entrepreneurial spirit of Hollywood of old.

What fascinated Wenders, a graduate of the Munich film academy, could be seen in his 1970 full-length *Summer In The City.*

It included specific categories of film, rock music and other forms of pop culture imported from America, such as the pin-table machine, which is now being replaced by computerised video games.

His early films were modelled on others yet somehow new in much the same way as Godard's *Out of Breath* or Truffaut's *Shoot the Pianist.*

They were an attempt to make experience of the cinema and of life to tally and a demonstration of sensitivity to the attraction of surface, colour, sound and cinema myths.

He later had this to say about his early work: "In content there were points held in common by the Munich style: motoring and music scenes, for instance.

"I feel music is a genuine connection. Many of us would probably have gone in for music if we had not made films"

References to rock music recur in his latest, *Der Stand der Dinge,* but they are no longer the songs of Chuck Berry, the Kinks or Lovin' Spoonful.

It is Carmelita, by Californian singer and song-writer Warren Zevon, about a heroin addict in the run-down suburbs of Los Angeles.

Someone sings it incidentally, thereby expressing a state of mind.

Wenders took his leave of the quote-happy sensitivity of what at the time was dubbed the Munich School. He did so at the latest in filming Handke's *Die Angst des Tormanns beim Elfmeter.*

The leading character in this film was someone who had to come to terms with an extreme situation in his quest for identity, a home, adventure and lasting friendship.

In this he resembles the broken figures who are the heroes of later Wenders films, broken but not completely destroyed and somehow still full of hope.

Fear of loneliness, arising from the realisation of inability to understand and reach understanding with others, is a key feature of all these films.

So work that is not based on original screenplays but adapted from Handke or Patricia Highsmith, such as Wenders' versions of *The American Friend* and *Ripley's Game,* betray just as much about Wenders the man, his phobias and his longings.

The director of the film-in-a-film in *Der Stand der Dinge* is as autobiographical as Franz Biberkopf was in Fassbinder's version of Döblin's *Berlin Alexanderplatz.*

In *Nick's Movie* Wenders has no compunction in being embarrassingly private as he shows us the slow death of cancer-racked but unbroken Hollywood rebel Nicholas Ray.

At times I have the impression that Wim Wenders is an artist consumed by ambition who, over and above any consideration of craftsmanship, is determined to make the films he wants to make, consistently and, arguably, to the point of self-destruction.

Otherwise it would be hard to see why he worked for Francis Ford Coppola in directing *Hammett* after so much humiliation without bowing his head in resignation, as Fritz Lang did in Hollywood.

Der Stand der Dinge, especially its fantastic final 20 minutes, would be hardly conceivable were it not fo[r] experience undergone beforehand.



The full circle ... Wim Wenders
(Photo: Filmverlag der Au[toren])

Wenders has never followed fashionable trends in the Young G[er]man film and has to this day to dis[...] box-office success.

Yet he and Herbert Achternbusch [...] the most consistent, radical and v[ersa]tile present-day German film direct[ors].

It may sound strange, after 10 y[ears] during which he has directed as m[any] full-length films, but after the [...] marked by *Der Stand der Dinge* w[e] expect Wim Wenders to direct [...] more original films.

Franz Schö[...]

(Handelsblatt, 27 August [1982])

Confrontation, but brutality is soft-pedalled



In *Dear Mister Wonderful,* Peter Lilienthal tells many tales at once, raising a variety of issues that run alongside each other without special emphasis.

He observes the more or less lonely singer and entertain with as much affection as he looks at Jewish life in New York.

He pays as much attention to the life of a woman unfulfilled as he does, in passing, to thoughtless juvenile delinquency.

And it all takes place against the background of a big city that regularly flashes on the screen in close-up yet in the final analysis remains fairly anonymous.

It is probably this anonymity that pushes people into isolation. This may not be a new idea, but Lilienthal outlines his characters, each in their own way a failure in life, lovingly and with well-nigh tender care.

They all need protection, there can be no doubt. They are exposed to the brutality of everyday life and fairly vulnerable in their feelings.

By virtue of this vulnerability they are not unduly active; they more or less become victims of a brutal society that aims exclusively at power and the means of gaining it.

They are not really a match to life in New York, if one may simplify matters to this extent, and also belong to a minority that is bedevilled by latent anti-semitism.

Peter Lilienthal has in all his films dealt primarily with the victims, the underdogs. Here too he looks at mankind's losers, the victims of the majority.

But this time the majority is not manipulated by the state. It consists of the rest of society, unthinking and lacking compassion.

This confrontation is only vaguely indicated, whereas in earlier Lilienthal films it was self-evident, with the lines between Latin American or Nazi dictatorships and their victims being more clearly drawn.

Lilienthal is also a soft-pedaller in his description of brutality, a director who only mentions violence in passing, as it were.

Thus his characters are again people who suffer silently on their own, who are as good as incapable of offering resistance, who are beaten before they are finally defeated.

This mentality deprives the film of much of its tension and makes scenes of dispute, disappointment and renunciation frequently appear slack.

Life grinds slowly on, without large gestures or an outcry of indignation or even, at the last, any great lamentation about personal collapse. Resignation rules, OK?

An entertainer, no longer in his p[rime] but still dreaming of a major billing [in] Las Vegas, runs a bowling alley i[n a] New York suburb.

He sings a few numbers to his cus[to]mers every evening, although no[one] pays much attention, lives with his [di]vorced sister and her teenage son i[n a] modest apartment.

Occasionally a poor old Jew [...] meals with them, but they are unable [to] converse with him because he spe[aks] Hebrew only and they can only sp[eak] English.

In other words, they have bro[ken] links with their roots, their origins.

Amidst this modest prosperity [the] singer, who at home is a domina[nt] figure as head of the family, could [...] be satisfied were it not for the deve[lo]pers who are keen to knock down [the] bowling alley.

Tentatively at first, then percepti[bly] more firmly, pressure is exerted and [he] is eventually driven out of the alley.

He resigns, takes a few days' holi[day] by the sea and in the end tries, as one [of] many, for a career as a singer.

He seems sure to open another [...] bar, to play the part of a small-time [en]tertainer, to marry his girl-friend, [...] his will-power will remain broken [...] his decision to quit the bowling [...] without a fight.

Joe Pesci, who played Jake La[Mot]ta's brother in Scorsese's film *Ra[ging] Bull* and has in real life been thro[ugh] experiences similar to those of the p[...] he plays, shows restraint.

He smiles gently, looks disappoi[nted] shows no signs of offering resist[ance] and seldom says a word of compl[aint] about others.

Karen Ludwig plays the part of [the] entertainer's sister, a woman kee[...]

Continued on page 15

EDUCATION

Lots of reasons why little Kurt just will not run along to school

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

[M]any children hate the thought of going to school. Some only go [...] escorted by their parents. Others [...] for months or years to set foot in [...]ssroom.

[Th]ey are not shirkers. They are panic-[stri]cken and pathologically afraid of [sch]ool. They may fall ill at the very [...]

[S]chool phobia and how to treat it are [dealt] with in *Praxis der Kinderpsycho[logie]* by Fritz Mattejat of the depart[ment] of child and youth psychiatry and [neur]ology at the Free University of Ber[lin].

The main symptom, he writes, is fear [of] school, which may relate to the insti[tuti]on as such or to certain children, [tea]chers or subjects, such as gymnastics. Unlike the truant, the victim of [sch]ool phobia admits to its parents that [it] is worried and asks to be allowed to [sta]y at home.

These are children who are usually [suf]fering from a number of other psy[chic] problems. Most are unable to look [aft]er themselves and strongly depen[dent] on mother or father.

They are scared and shy in encoun[ters] with people outside their immedi[ate] family. Some are even afraid of go[ing] outdoors.

Their anxiety is frequently accompa[nied] by depression.

The phobia almost always begin with [the] child complaining of physical upsets, such as stomach ache. Mention is also made of sickness (and the children are sick), of insomnia and of headaches.

These complaints are often so much to the fore that the child does not, to begin with, admit to being afraid of going to school.

Not until several medical examinations have failed to indicate any physical upset and the parents try to persuade their child to go to school does its fear surface.

The child then not only admits to being afraid of school but also levels accusations at its parents, who often capitulate, whereupon peace and quiet return.

Complaints of feeling unwell are made first thing in the morning, before school, and frequently on Sunday evenings too, but during school holidays they soon vanish.

The victim of this phobia seldom has reason to be afraid of school from the viewpoint of his or her educational prowess.

Statistically speaking, they are average or above average in intelligence and not markedly anti-social in behaviour, meaning they don't steal, lie or loiter around.

Boys and girls are affected in equal numbers and at all stages of their school career. All social classes are affected and the phenomenon peaks between the third and seventh year at school.

The family are mainly to blame, says Mattejat, who is a psychologist. As a rule the child's mother was very attached to her own mother during childhood, yet felt hostile and aggressive toward her under the surface.

To this day she has failed to gain release from this morbid mother-daughter relationship. Instead, she develops a similarly ambivalent relationship with her child.

She overwhelms it with care and attention and tries to weld it to her, especially when her marital relations are unsatisfactory.

She is not prepared to accept that her child is developing independently and drawing a line between itself and her as it becomes a personality in its own right.

Its father is on the passive side and pays little attention to educational issues. In the family he is a marginal figure and unable to establish a counterweight to the mother's educational behaviour.

The child is given no clear leadership and its parents often allow themselves to be guided by what it says. The family is relatively closed to the outside influence of institutions such as school.

But all members of the family tend to blame their surroundings for their problems.

Outside the family the child is scared and withdraws into itself; within the family it makes demands of its parents and controls them.

At school it will often try to gain the approval and recognition of teachers by doing well. Parents are convinced their child is organically ill, but beneath the surface they blame it for the trouble.

If it stays away from school for too long it will fall so far behind that it is steadily more difficult to find its feet again at school.

As the process takes its course the parents come to feel increasingly hostile toward the outside world.

The younger the child is and the less marked its fears are, the better the chances of a cure. Nearly all under-11s suffering from a mild form of the complaint can be cured.

The outlook is good when the parents are ready to cooperate with the therapist too. A wide range of therapeutic techniques have successfully been used to treat the complaint.

They include behavioural therapy, psychoanalysis and of late family therapy, which as the name implies includes the parents too.

The aim must clearly be to get the child back to school as soon as possible. Parents must come to realise that their child is not suffering from an organic complaint and could go to school if it wanted.

In more serious cases the family circumstances must be probed to see what has triggered the complaint. Not until they have been dealt with can the child be sent back to school.

A special treatment has been developed for problem cases at the department of child and youth psychiatry and neurology in Berlin.

It takes three to four months and the child is first sent to hospital before being gradually integrated at school.

Parents are put through an accompanying programme of psychotherapy and gradually entrusted with looking after the child on their own again.

Rolf Degen

(Der Tagesspiegel, 29 August 1982)

Astounding deductions from 1,000 little scribblings

All children are creative, a Munich research project has concluded from a two-year survey of scribbling by toddlers.

It is entitled A Qualitative and Quantitative Long-Term Survey of Structural Elements of Children's Drawings.

Over 5,000 drawings by children aged one to three were analysed. They were made by 100 children in their own homes. The children were between 12 and 18 months old when the project began.

It ended two years later when they started to draw specific and recognisable objects.

"The basic feature of our analysis was the pattern or variety of scribble," explains project director Almut Nguyen-Clausen, who is a behavioural biologist.

"What we mean is the course each line takes, ending as soon as the child puts the pen down, and we identified 12 different types of scribble."

In 9 out of 12 cases analysis revealed statistically definite differences between the sexes. Boys lead the field in one case only.

All other patterns are scribbled earlier by girls, who were found not only to develop drawing talent earlier, but to prefer drawing complicated patterns.

This facility prevailed regardless of the speed of development, since boys preferred to scribble simple patterns even when they were already capable of drawing more complicated ones.

The research scientists conclude from their studies that development of the ability to draw proceeds in accordance with in inner programme and that there are patterns that recur among all children.

Is a child's drawing talent affected by its environment? Yes, even toddlers enjoy discovering something new.

The ability to learn from others, developing individual ability in a social context, is a integral part of children's development.

Professor Hans Daucher of Munich University agrees that all children are creative, but he takes this simple conclusion a step further, adding:

"It is clear that in a primarily verbalised education the child's sensuality is progressively destroyed, especially at school, where there is little scope for the various forms of aesthetic education."

A further survey of three- to six-year-olds is to be made to see whether these depressing conclusions are borne out by later development.

Then, and then only, the experts plan to consider what conclusions may be drawn in educational practice.

Rose-Marie Borngässer

(Die Welt, 25 August 1982)

■ HEALTH

A way to conversation for spastics through language of symbols

Düsseldorf educationalists and therapists working with the Spastics Association have been experimenting for several years with the Bliss system.

Devised by Austrian-born Charles K. Bliss, it is a system of symbols enabling people who are unable to speak to communicate with others.

It is a problem for many people with serious physical handicaps. Polio or



meningitis often damages parts of the brain where the speech nerves are.

Unable to control the speech muscles, either totally or partially, the most they can manage is a few unintelligible grunts.

It is not that they cannot think or understand others. Their intelligence is not as a rule affected, as experiments with handicapped children have shown.

But serious speech defects are often accompanied by other difficulties in coordinating movements, with the result that the unfortunate victims are classified as seriously handicapped.

No figures are available on handicapped people in Germany who are unable to speak, but if US and Canadian statistics are any guide, there must be about 12,000.

A wide range of educational and therapeutic aids, such as boards or screens with symbols, words and letters, electronic devices and gestures, are used to help them to communicate with others.

The handicapped are only too keen to learn and work hard at the various systems, but they all still have their drawbacks.

Communication by gesture is often hampered because the handicapped do not have full control over their limbs. The symbols are usually too specific and rule out any kind of abstract conversation.

Charts of letters presuppose the ability to read. Electronic devices are not just too expensive, which need not rule them out, but too cumbersome and liable to break down.

The Bliss symbols used by the Düsseldorf group are partly pictorial, partly abstract. Arranged in sequence, they can formulate statements and even complete sentences.

The system consists of 25 symbols that can be used individually or in combination to make up more or less complicated words.

The symbol for water, a wavy line, used with the symbol for mouth, a circle, is understood as meaning a drink.

In addition to nouns assembled in this way (they can be both objects and abstractions) the Bliss sign language includes symbols for most verbs and essential parts of speech.

It is a rich and varied system to which additions can be made by using symbols in colour or in various sizes.

Bliss, a semantographer, devised it in 1949 as a universal symbolic language to foster international understanding. It has emerged as a promising means of communication for people with speech defects.

Sophistication

It has been used at a therapeutic centre in Toronto since 1971, and Bliss has worked alongside other scientists in adapting it for this more specific purpose.

It is used with the mentally handicapped and with patients suffering from a combination of handicaps, and a variety of aids have been developed to enable people unable to point to symbols with their hands or arms to use it.

Originally devised as a universal language, the Bliss system can as a rule be used more easily to make specific and important statements than to chat about the weather.

So it is particularly well suited to its new therapeutic purpose.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 August 1982)

Surgeons make new world for the deaf

Cologne surgeons have perfected a new operation to help the deaf. They insert electrodes into the middle ear, linking an electronic microphone with the auditory nerve.

One patient whose hearing has been restored in this way is a Vietnamese woman who had been deaf from the age of two.

When she arrived in Germany she was 25, deaf and dumb and unable to read or write. For six months she has been able to hear again.

The surgeons are Professor Fritz Wustrow and Professor Paul Banfai, ear, nose and throat specialists, and they devised the technique with support from Hortmann, a manufacturer of biophysical equipment.

The operation consists of inserting eight electrodes through the middle ear to near the auditory nerve, but without opening the inner ear.

A kind of microphone relays sound impulses to the electrodes, which are located at various points of the inner ear and enable the patient to register sounds at frequencies of between 3,000 and 3,600 hertz.

After the operation patients can recognise frequencies, volumes and rhythms even though their inner ear may have been defective from birth or put out of action by illness.

So they can hear traffic noise and noise around the home. They may not be able to hear and understand everything people say, but they can be trained to recognise specific words and sentences.

This electronic ear improves the speech of the deaf and dumb, whose voices tend to sound unclear. Once they are partly able to hear what they are saying they can steadily improve their pronunciation.

If they learn to lip-read too they can understand up to 95 per cent of what is said to them. But their auditory nerve must still be intact for the operation to succeed; so must the auditory centre in the brain.

Professor Wustrow says about 10,000 deaf people in the Federal Republic of Germany could be helped by this operation.

As yet only one a month can be handled in Cologne because the electronic equipment, costing between DM7,000 and DM10,000, cannot be manufactured faster.

Jörg Feldner

(Kieler Nachrichten, 18 August 1982)

Back from oblivion

Continued from page 11

re, the tale of love and death of a pioneer in radiology, a man who was like an X-ray inside.

His soul was a vacuum, lacking both goodness and hatred. As Weiss tells the tale, so Kafka said, he came to life to the point of being blinded.

Weiss spent the First World War as a regimental doctor. He dealt with the war in *Menschen gegen Mensch* (Men Against Man), an anti-war novel published in 1919.

He then lived first in Vienna, then in Munich, finally settling in Berlin, where he wrote delightful studies in character and the age in his pseudo-biographical novels *Der Aristokrat*, 1928, and *Georg Letham — Arzt und Mörder* (Georg Letham, Doctor and Murderer).

Weiss dissected his characters. After the Nazi take-over he lived first in Prague, then emigrated to Paris early in 1934.

His first novel written in exile was *Der Gefängnisarzt oder die Vaterlosen* (The Prison Doctor or the Fatherless Ones), published in 1934.

In it he paints a picture of the black marketeers, addicts and card-sharps of the post-World War I inflationary period but refuses to accept them as a valid reflection of society.

In 1936 his *Der arme Verschwender* (The Poor Prodigal) was published, another doctor's novel that Weiss felt was his best and may be regarded as a covert biography.

His final novel tells the tale of a humanitarian doctor who feels he has cured Adolf Hitler, a World War I corporal, of his psychosis, then witnesses his rise to power.

In the end he is a victim of his former patient. In this novel, *Der Augenzeuge*, he anticipates his own end. A day after the Wehrmacht marched into Paris he took his life.

He did not deserve to be forgotten as a writer, and his centenary resurrection no more than does him justice. Many readers may never have heard of him before, but readers he can now be sure to have in plenty.

Wolfgang Schirmacher

(Nordwest Zeitung, 28 August 1982)

A rest for the parents of handicapped

Young people in Vechta, near ... men, run a babysitting service ... a difference. They take turns to look after mongoloid and other handicapped children, so the parents can get out and about.

Monika Kühling, for instance, could hardly even find time to go shopping because her daughter, 15, was physically and mentally handicapped.

"I couldn't always leave her with my own mother," she says. But now she rings one of the group of 10 young people who come round to keep an eye on her daughter.

The 10 young people launched their service in spring 1981. It is run by ... and five mothers. The idea came from a group of about 15 parents of handicapped children in the Vechta area.

They have met regularly for ... five years to discuss everyday problems. The mothers of mongoloid children were particularly isolated. In some cases they rarely went out.

The children need constant care ... in the case of mongoloid children ... be seen to be mentally handicapped, which often means that mother and child are not welcome.

A social worker at a Vechta ... centre encouraged the mothers to ... a group of ordinary young people, ... whom were immediately ready to take turns at looking after the handicapped children, aged 2 to 15.

The mothers now meet twice a month at the youth centre to drink a cup of ... and compare notes on how best to cope with the situation, "how to live with ..." as Frau Kühling says.

While they are chatting, their children play, paint or practise other hobbies with the young people in the babysitter group.

The youngsters are mostly schoolchildren or students and initially preferred to call round in twos.

But now they are on better terms with the individual handicapped children and not only come on their own but often stay overnight, says Frau Kühling.

Daniel, a 10-year-old mongoloid ... is regularly visited by Antonius ... year-old motor mechanic. They play with toy cars and are the best of friends.

Most of the handicapped children have their favourite babysitters. They are taken swimming, go for walks, or taken out for an ice-cream.

For them it is great fun. Getting out and about with other youngsters does them a power of good. "It's much better than if I were to ask my next-door neighbour to lend a hand," says Frau Kühling.

The lady next door was like a prison warder for her daughter. She looked after her but made no attempt to get to know her.

But after a year of babysitting the group feel they have somehow reached a dead end. Their initial enthusiasm has waned and one problem after the other has arisen.

They have no experience in keeping the group going and find it difficult. "What we need," says Frau Kühling, "is outside help from an educationalist or social worker."

(Bremer Nachrichten, 26 August 1982)

■ MUNICH 1972

A plain memorial tablet recalls the Olympic day of infamy

A plain memorial tablet on the wall of ... Connollystrasse in Munich's Olympic village is all there is to remind visitors of the 5 September 1972 massacre of members of the Israeli team by Palestinian terrorists. Eleven names in German and Hebrew testify to an event that ... headline news 10 years ago.

The Munich Olympics were a decade ago: it is still difficult to come to terms with what happened.

The modern Olympic movement, founded by Pierre de Coubertin, was ... leading for a start, founded in the ... century and based on boundless admiration for classical antiquity.

Baron de Coubertin was a humanist ... viewed sport as a religion with its ... church and creed, an act of worship accompanied by suitable sentiments.

But when he came to put pen to paper in 1931 to describe the Olympic movement as he saw it, he and fellow-members of the IOC had already been ... on several Olympic occasions.

The heroes of the Ancient Greek Olympics were anything but amateurs. They were keen to win prizes and addicted to the privileges that went with them.

Nothing would have shocked them more than the modern Olympic creed ... to have taken part was more important than to have won.

This, at any rate, is the opinion of the ... social historian Pleket.

The Olympic tenet is also hard to reconcile with the other motto: citius, altius, fortius (faster, further, higher). But ... grand old men of the IOC were not ... for their powers of logic.

Germans in particular did not need ... unravel the Olympic contradictions ... far to see through the official untruth that sport was unpolitical.

Munich, not Germany, was the official host of the 1972 summer Games, ... the Olympics were widely viewed as ... ideal opportunity (not to say inexpensive at the price) of showing the world the new Germany.

On TV screens the world over viewers ... to see for themselves the new, true, democratic Germany. It was a bright,

Süddeutsche Zeitung

new, sterile Germany chemically cleansed with typical German thoroughness.

The country could count itself lucky that the man who declared the Games open, Bonn head of state Gustav Heinemann, was an anti-fascist democratic socialist.

Officialdom, especially sports officials, was determined to remain incapable of mourning, to use the term coined by Frankfurt psychoanalyst Alexander Mitscherlich.

Officials of all kinds chose to ignore the fact that sport in Germany has a long track record as a stablemate of war. Hindenburg referred to it as "service to the Fatherland."

In 1936 the Nazis staged the Berlin Olympics, which by all accounts were brilliantly organised, but in 1972 everyone was anxious to avoid comparison. Least said, soonest mended.

Carl Diehm, Germany's counterpart to Pierre de Coubertin, once said that sport and journalism stood at the same take-off board.

It was an appeal to close ranks and make common cause, and it worked until after 1972. Only now are we beginning to have second thoughts.

Willi Daume, the Dortmund industrialist and NOC president who organised the Munich Games, first wanted the Olympics to be happy.

Then he said they would be fateful. How right he was! Palestinian terrorists, unimpressed by the artificially unpolitical atmosphere, brushed the fine words aside.

They took the Israeli team hostage in the Olympic village, making headline news that was to end with 17 dead, not including the public relations concept of a peaceful new Germany.

But because Avery Brundage and the public were determined to carry on at all costs, not only Munich was brought to a conclusion; the Olympic spectacle has since been repeated elsewhere.

It has been business as usual without even one of the serious Olympic contradictions having been anywhere near resolved.

Yet there were also lasting results of the Munich Olympics that were more satisfactory. Never before had top-flight sport and the Olympic movement been viewed so critically in the glare of publicity.

The Olympics as a quasi-religious movement, it was suggested, were aimed at fostering discipline and diverting the masses. Coubertin himself referred to sport as the best pacifier one could imagine.

Georg von Opel rightly forecast in 1971 that the future belonged to sporting sensations and thus to the officially manipulated athlete.

Manfred Steinbach, a medical specialist and former long-jump star, said top-flight sport could undoubtedly have a therapeutic effect.

But could society afford such an expensive cure of a single individual?

The Munich Olympics left behind a milestone in modern architecture, the marquee-roofed Olympic stadium complex that only a rich country could afford (10 years ago, not any longer).

It was also very much to Herr Daume's credit that the first and last attempt was made to create a uniform artistic impression at an event of this size.

He commissioned Otl Aicher, the artist, to supervise the artistic appearance of Olympic Munich.

In material terms the city itself has been the main beneficiary of a luxury embarked on with rose-tinted spectacles that were later toned a darker hue by the blood shed.

Claus Heinrich Meyer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 August 1982)

Confrontation

Continued from page 12

... a life of her own and more flexible, ... self-assured and arguably surer of ... aims than he is.

A small anonymous life against the background of a big anonymous city ... have tempted Lilienthal to use Sam ... Shaw's screenplay in New York.

He tells his tale, the life-story of average people, without much ado or great complication, but the more or less even ... of everyday life is not necessarily ... interesting way of gaining an insight ... other worlds that is valid for one's ...

But the portrait of an entertainer ... caught between honesty on a small ... and crime on a large scale assumes almost legendary proportions as ... directed by Peter Lilienthal.

Volker Baer

(Der Tagesspiegel, 27 August 1982)

What is the link between AEG-Telefunken and soccer star Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, captain of Bayern Munich and Germany?

Until recently Rummenigge was earning DM150,000 a year by advertising for the ailing engineering giant.

But he should have little difficulty in finding another advertising customer to add to the money he earns from playing football.

Germany's post-war *Wirtschaftswunder*, or economic miracle, may be over, but the soccer miracle isn't. Or is it? Is Bundesliga soccer, now into its 20th season, in deep water?

The first division of Bundesliga soccer is a simple exercise in arithmetic consisting of 18 known quantities and an unknown.

The 18 are the clubs. The unknown is the money they may or may not earn. Will soccer continue to be a money-spinner? Will fans still line the stands and terraces?

Is there a link between the economic miracle and soccer's millionaires? There surely is, but it is not the only question that comes to mind.

What about the other end of the social spectrum? Is soccer just a pastime for the general public, with the unemployed swelling the ranks of soccer fans?

The good years are definitely over for German soccer, but even in the lean years Bundesliga football remains very much a spellbinder.

Tickets are not as inordinately expensive as those who don't go would have us believe. They cost between DM8 and DM40 at the turnstile, which is reasonable even now people think twice before spending the money.

In the aftermath of the World Cup in Spain one wonders whether the arrogance of the German team that lost 3-1 to Italy in the final will have any effect on the season that lies ahead.

■ SPORT

Soccer reaches a crucial crossroads

A joke that went the rounds in Spain was that a Bundesliga club back home had been selling season tickets with the slogan:

"Follow our football club this season. We don't have a single member of the World Cup squad on our playing staff."

The season is sure to get off to an interesting start. It will not be long before several players turn out to have been a bad investment.

Many a costly transfer will seem to have been a waste of money and many a manager will be fired when his team fails to find its form.

Yet powers of prophecy are not required to forecast that business by and large will be good.

Soccer is still well in the running in an economy where redundancy, short time working and bankruptcies seem to be the rule.

Germany's Football Association was founded at the turn of the century. Soccer has come a long way since then, and at the top it is show business.

Bundesliga soccer fires the imagination. It provides thrills, entertainment, diversion. An apprentice earning DM800 a month signs professional forms and is suddenly grossing DM100,000 a year.

That is surely the stuff that dreams are made of, although no-one would deny that mediocre professional footballers probably earn more than they're worth.

Forwards who score maybe three times in a season can earn more than three skilled workers. Many try to blackmail their clubs, but in Bundesliga soccer the dole queue is never far away.

Even beginners behave as though they were Franz Beckenbauer at his best and expect to become millionaires via soccer.

Team managers too expect to earn a packet. Not one in the Bundesliga earns less than DM10,000 a month, and Rinus Michels in Cologne grosses DM35,000 a month.

Has soccer grown too big for its boots? Hermann Neuberger, who dragged soccer screaming into the Bundesliga era 20 years ago, has fresh improvements in mind that next to no-one is interested in.

In the meantime the fan queueing at the turnstile will be wondering whether he can afford, especially if he has just been given the sack, to pay DM10 to DM30 to see a game of soccer.

Ought an unemployed man to have to pay this kind of money when every player on the club's first team register earns DM1,000 per point in the league table?

Ought he to have to do so in a city where unemployment is running at over 10 per cent? The city is Dortmund. The club that charges between DM10 and DM30 is Borussia Dortmund.

Reinhart Rauball, the club chairman, has said he will not be standing for re-election. He is not the only chairman to call it a day. Jürgen Friedrich has resigned as chairman of Kaiserslautern and Hans-Georg Noack is resigning in Düsseldorf.

In Stuttgart Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, Education Minister and club chairman, has said he too is thinking of standing down in the soccer boardroom.

Has the Bundesliga's cash taken its toll? The Bundesliga is certainly no longer a sideline for amateurs in club chairmanship or managerial activity.

Manfred Lehnen

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